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BUSINESS » PAGE 18

40 COUNTRIES TARGETED

China's military behind vast spy programme: U.S.

FOREIGN » PAGE 17

MOSCOW MEET

People of Afghanistan are our priority, says NSA Doval

NEWS » PAGE 14

Mud-slinging will help lotus grow: PM

Prime Minister defends his government against Opposition allegations; Motion of Thanks to President for her Address passed in the Rajya Sabha

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Stinging attack: Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaking in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. ANI

Striking a combative note in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi hit out at the Opposition, saying that he was ready to take on any allegations made against him and his government. "*Ek akela kitno par bhari padh raha hai* (One person is proving to be more than equal to them all)," he said.

Without specifically acknowledging the allegations against him related to the Adani Group and the Union government's silence on the accusations made in the report by U.S.-based short-seller Hindenburg Research, Mr. Modi said that the *keechad* (dirt) flung against him would actually help the *kamal* (lotus) to grow, referring to the BJP's election symbol.

Opposition members crowded the well of the Rajya Sabha, shouting slogans about Adani throughout the Prime Minister's reply to the debate on the Motion of Thanks to President Droupadi Murmu for her Address to the joint sitting of Parliament. The Motion was passed by the House after defeating the Opposition's proposed amendments through a voice vote.

Mr. Modi strongly defended his government against the Opposition's allegation that the BJP was undermining federal values.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

7 asphyxiated while cleaning edible oil tank in A.P. factory

The Hindu Bureau
PEDDAPURAM (KAKINADA)

A view of the edible oil tanks at the factory in Kakinada district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Seven workers died from asphyxiation during the removal of sludge from an edible oil tank at a mill in Kakinada district of Andhra Pradesh on Thursday.

The incident took place at Ambati Subbanna & Co Oils Mill at G. Ragampeta village. Five of the deceased belong to the Paderu agency in Alluri Sitaramaraju district and two hail from Kakinada district.

The deceased are Vechangi Krishna, 35, Vechangi Narasinga Rao, 38, Vechangi Sagar, 20, Kuratadu Bonju Babu, 34, Korra Rama Rao, 45, of the Paderu agency and Kattamuri Jagadeesh and Prasad, 27, of Kakinada district.

Kakinada Superintendent of Police (SP) M. Raveendranath Babu told *The Hindu*: "Initially, two workers who entered the tank to clean died. Five workers who attempted to rescue the duo also died. It is believed that the seven workers have reportedly died from asphyxiation".

Only one worker survived. "All the seven bodies have been retrieved from the tank. Investigation is on," he said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

NEARBY

Road-widening work stalled

BENGALURU
The BMRCL, which had taken up work to widen the road from Tin Factory skywalk to K.R. Puram railway station, is unable to complete it as the BDA has failed to transfer a patch of land required for the project. » Page 5

METROPLUS » PAGE 9

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Centre wanted vetting process in picking judges

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Union government, just a little over a month before the Supreme Court Collegium recommended advocate Victoria Gowri for Madras High Court judgeship on January 17, 2023, had in the top court flagged the "compelling need" for a debate to include an "appropriate mechanism" in the Memorandum of Procedure for "assessment of the personality" of candidates under consideration for judicial appointments to constitutional courts.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

Alimony: High Court sets timeline for FCs on deciding wife's plea

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Taking note of several instances of delay by family courts (FCs) in considering applications filed by wife seeking interim maintenance from husband under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, the High Court of Karnataka has set a timeline for the FCs to decide the plea, while fixing six months as the outer limit.

Though Section 24 of the Act says that application seeking maintenance should be disposed of "as far as possible" within 60 days, the High Court said the term "as far as possible" is being interpreted that the courts could pass orders even after six months. In some cases it was two years, three years, or even four years after filing the application.

'Soul will be defeated'

"This delay in considering those applications for maintenance would defeat the very soul of the provision which is to give succour to the wife..." the High Court said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Indians renouncing citizenship highest since 2011

16.63 In lakh, the number of Indians who renounced their Indian citizenship since 2011, including 2.25 lakh last year, according to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. In 2019, the number of Indians who renounced their Indian citizenship was 1.44 lakh, 85,256 in 2020 and 1.63 lakh in 2021. PTI

Cases pending at the High Courts and Supreme Court

59.87 In lakh, the number of cases pending in 25 High Courts (HC), Parliament was informed. Over 69,000 cases are pending in the Supreme Court. Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said that 69,511 cases were pending in the top court as on February 1. Of the cases pending in the HCs, 10.30 lakh cases were from the Allahabad High Court. PTI

Government refers back proposals to SCC for reconsideration

10 The number of proposals the government returned to the Supreme Court Collegium (SCC) for reconsideration, amid an ongoing tiff between the Executive and the Judiciary over the procedure to appoint judges, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju informed Parliament. Of these, the SCC has reiterated its earlier recommendation for appointment in three cases. PTI

More than 350 satellites launched in India since 2014

353 The number of foreign satellites launched by India since 2014, according to Union Minister Jitendra Singh. He said India earned €187 million from European countries and $39 million from the U.S. by launching satellites from 2014. He said that to promote public-private participation, a PSU called 'NewSpace India Limited' has been established. PTI

In January, equity mutual funds inflow hits four month high

12,546 In ₹ crore, the amount attracted by equity mutual funds in January, driven by buoyant SIP flows, making it the highest net infusion in four months, despite volatility in stock markets, data with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) showed. PTI

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Locating China in the Russia-Ukraine war

Is China's discourse and rhetoric being reflected in its actions? How is the Russia-Ukraine conflict affecting China's standing on the global stage? Why has China's neutrality been called a 'pro-Russia' neutrality? What have been the latest revelations regarding China aiding Russia in its campaign?

EXPLAINER

Anand V.

The story so far:

As the Russia-Ukraine conflict marches toward the one-year mark, there seem to be hardly any signs of de-escalation. Western powers have started providing powerful offensive weapons to Ukraine, and Russia has threatened grave consequences in response. Moreover, as Western sanctions on Russia progressively tighten, the country is increasingly becoming reliant on China. While China has officially been speaking in a largely neutral language, there have been some instances which have come to light recently of China allegedly assisting Russia in its campaign.

What is China's stance on the conflict?

China's formal stance on the conflict has been on the lines of "all countries deserve respect for their sovereignty and territorial integrity" and that "support should be given to all efforts that are conducive to peacefully resolving the crisis", which it has consistently been reiterating on the world stage. With an emphasis on "all countries", China appears to be demonstrating its position as being equidistant from both the conflicting parties. However, despite this articulation, China's attitude towards the conflict has often been categorised as a 'pro-Russian neutrality'.

Russia and China are engaged in a "comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era"; and despite the conflict, China has pushed ahead with strengthening its relations with Russia. Moreover, China has painted the U.S. and NATO as prime instigators of the crisis, echoing the Russian narrative in this regard. It also needs to be noted that in the past one year since the start of the conflict, out of the seven resolutions put to vote in total at the UN General Assembly, Security Council, Human Rights Council and the World Health Organization by the West against Russia, China voted against three and abstained from four. In fact, China had only voted in favour of one UN Security Council resolution – the proposal which was raised by Russia on humanitarian aid. Hence, China's portrayal of a neutral stance has many detractors.

However, as the conflict progressed, China's rhetoric seems to be becoming less pro-Russia and more neutral in tone. The signaling from China's top leadership seems to suggest this. Xi Jinping, the President of China, during his November 2022 meeting with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, warned that the conflict should not cross the nuclear threshold; perhaps referring to Russia's President Vladimir Putin's nuclear threats to deter Western support to Ukraine. Also, China's incoming Foreign Minister Qin Gang had mentioned in his article in *The Washington Post* in March 2022 that "Had China known about the imminent crisis, we would have tried our best to prevent it". Subsequently, in his piece in *The National Interest* in December 2022, he struck a sympathetic note with the Ukrainians. He had also at other instances emphasised that there are some limits in China's relations with Russia despite the talks of a "no limits" partnership.

Apart from the higher level leadership in China, there have also been some alleged noises from below the hierarchy which have been critical of Putin's actions. Nevertheless, the new trend in China's attitude to the conflict was once again on display during the G-20 summit held at Bali in November 2022. The leaders' declaration which stated that most members strongly condemned the war, was not concurred with by China only because of its objection to calling the conflict a 'war'. However, China not opposing the condemnation of the conflict itself, rather than its terminological nuance, is something which has not missed international scrutiny.

Growing ties: Russian President Vladimir Putin holds a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping via video in Moscow on December 30, 2022. AFP

How much is China involved in the conflict?

Outside the realm of discourse, China's actions do not seem to carry any such nuances, as it is intervening at least in an indirect manner in the conflict. China has benefited immensely from buying cheap Russian oil and gas. Since the start of the conflict, China has displaced Germany as the largest purchaser of Russian oil, with Russia replacing Saudi Arabia as China's largest supplier of crude oil. The growing collusion between the two countries is not just limited to hydrocarbons, but also extends to materials and technology.

Recently, *The Wall Street Journal* has exposed China's covert assistance to Russia by accessing Russian customs data compiled by C4ADS, an American think tank. The findings suggest that Chinese State Owned enterprises in the defence sector have provided navigation equipment, jamming technology, radar systems and fighter-jet parts to their Russian counterparts. According to the data, several tens of thousands of shipments of dual use goods have been sent by China to Russia, to which the latter would otherwise be having only restricted access due to sanctions. It has also been found that millions of chips have made its way to Russia through China; chips being central to modern military equipments and also subject to increasing sanctions by the West – both against Russia and China.

China refuted such allegations and claimed that the military dimensions of such transactions were mere speculations. This is in sharp contrast to China's rhetoric where it demands Western powers not to send military support to intensify the conflict. These actions by China have a huge significance with respect to recent developments, wherein countries like Germany and the U.S. are sending their offensive weapon platforms to Ukraine such as the Leopard and Abrams tanks, respectively. The West is starting to take actions against China in this milieu. For instance, the U.S. has recently slapped sanctions on Spacety China, a Chinese satellite company which was indirectly providing satellite imagery of Ukraine to the Wagner Group, a Russian private military force which is now heavily involved in the conflict.

What is the rationale behind China's emerging attitude?

While there is a strengthening of neutrality in China's rhetoric, the same is absent in its actions. This trend and dichotomy can only be explained by understanding China's larger gameplan. China needs to keep Russia close and well-supplied because Russia is its premier ally in its larger global ambition to undermine U.S. dominance. China would also like to keep its Russia card so that in the eventuality of the conflict turning into peace talks, China could use it to gain concessions from the West. Perhaps, the ideal bargain which China seeks is on the trade and technology front where it is facing major challenge from the West of late. This is significant for China, especially at a time when it desperately needs a post-Zero COVID economic revitalisation.

China cannot overtly support Russia as it will hurt its relations with both Ukraine and the European Union (EU). China is the largest trading partner for both Russia and Ukraine; in fact, China displaced Russia in 2019 as Ukraine's largest trading partner. Ukraine, and not the U.S., is China's largest corn supplier and its third largest supplier of military equipment; China is Ukraine's biggest market for defence goods. Liaoning, China's first aircraft carrier, is basically a refurbished aircraft carrier bought from Ukraine after the Soviet Union's disintegration. China, therefore cannot abandon all its interests in Ukraine for Russia's sake. China also has very strong economic ties with the EU, and would like the EU to further bolster its strategic autonomy to act more independently of the U.S. in matters of geopolitics.

On the whole, China's efforts at the end to encourage Russia in a limited and covert manner, without raising alarms in the West seems to be to be intended to keep the war going. For one, it provides valuable time and information for planning a Taiwan invasion. China maybe watching and learning from Western assistance to Ukraine to forecast their response to a possible invasion of Taiwan in the future by China, as mentioned by the CIA Director William Burns in July 2022. It is certainly in China's best interest to keep Russia and the West divided, lest they team up together against China as in the 19th century. Moreover, with the conflict prolonging, the West will be distracted from the Indo-Pacific theatre, and Russia will be left weakened to pose any threat to China's growing influence in the post-Soviet space. At the same time, China can fill the economic void in Russia left by the withdrawal of Western investment and technology, while engineering an economic recovery for itself.

China can also build up its strategic reserves and capabilities during the crisis to prepare for an inevitable hostile period of relations with the U.S. in a post-Ukraine scenario.

Dr. Anand V. is the Coordinator of the China Study Centre at the Department of Geopolitics and International Relations, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal (Karnataka).

THE GIST

- China's formal stance on the Russia-Ukraine conflict has been on the lines of "all countries deserve respect for their sovereignty and territorial integrity" and that "support should be given to all efforts that are conducive to peacefully resolving the crisis".
- However, outside the realm of discourse, China's actions do not seem to reflect the same. Recently, *The Wall Street Journal* has exposed China's covert assistance to Russia by accessing Russian customs data compiled by C4ADS, an American think tank.
- China's efforts to encourage Russia in a limited and covert manner, without raising alarms in the West seems to be to be intended to keep the war going.

INBRIEF

Forest Dept. mapping leopard conflict areas

The Forest Department is in the process of mapping the hotspots where human-leopard conflicts are high in Mysuru and surrounding regions. At present, 28 villages under T. Narsipur taluk have been mapped as hotspots based on the frequency of leopard encounter, livestock kills etc. The department has a portal e-Parihara and entails field officers to record details of the human-animal conflict. This data is being harnessed to map high conflict areas and will help in scientific deployment of the Leopard Task Force recently constituted by the government, said Basavaraju, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Mysuru Territorial Division.

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (February 10, Friday), the following explainer is available:

- Locating China in the Russia-Ukraine war
  bit.ly/russiachinarelationship

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Blood cancer survivor meets stem cell donor for the first time

Mandeep had to wait for over three years before a donor was identified and he underwent stem cell transplant in Jan. 2020

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Cancer survivor Mandeep (left) with stem cell donor Mandeep.

Blood cancer survivor Mandeep, 35, a farmer from Punjab, was diagnosed with Chronic Myeloid Leukemia in 2009. Unfortunately, although he was advised a stem cell transplant, he could not find a Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) matched stem cell donor within his family.

Mandeep had to wait for over three years before an HLA matching unrelated donor was identified with the help of DKMS BMST Foundation India and he underwent stem cell transplant in January 2020.

On Thursday, Mandeep met his stem cell donor for the first time in Bengaluru at an event organised by the foundation to mark World Cancer Day.

"Cancer was a big shock to me and everyone around me. I was advised a stem cell transplant by the doctors, but we could not find a matching donor from my family. My decade-old struggle ended when a matching unrelated donor was identified with the help of this foundation," he said.

He was treated by Dinesh Bhurani, director, Department of Haemato-oncology and Bone Marrow Transplantation, at Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Center, New Delhi.

His namesake

"Today, I am completely cured. I waited for over two years to meet my genetic twin, whose stem cell donation saved my life, and coincidentally he is my namesake. I am very grateful to Mandeep (donor)," said the survivor.

As per the International guidelines, the identity of both the blood stem cell donor and recipient are kept anonymous for a period of two years and thereafter, depending on their interest they are introduced to each other.

The donor, a 39-year-old software professional, said after his stem cell donation in December 2019, he always wondered about the well-being of the recipient. "Finally we got to meet today. My wife is also a cancer patient, and I do understand the pain and agony of the family members. I registered as a stem cell donor in a registration drive organised by DKMS-BMST in my office in 2018. After being identified as a match, the team guided me in every step and I donated my stem cells hassle free," he said.

Patrick Paul, CEO of the foundation, said any healthy individual aged between 18 and 55 can register as a blood stem cell donor by ordering a home swab kit at www.dkms-bmst.org/register

Govt. to modify re-evaluation system for II PU

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has decided to modify the re-evaluation system for the II PU final examination and will now consider even one more mark a student secures in the process. The new rule will be applicable from the annual public exams scheduled to be held in March 2023.

Presently, a re-evaluated score was being considered only if the students secured more than 6% of the total marks in the particular paper during re-evaluation.

"We have decided to amend the Karnataka Pre-University Course State Level Public Examination Rules, 1997, in the coming session," said B.C. Nagesh, Minister of School Education and Literacy.

Man held for stealing valuables from relative

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Jayanagar police on Thursday arrested a 53-year-old electrician for allegedly stealing 300 gm of gold ornaments and cash worth ₹40,000 from his relative's house on Sunday.

The accused, Ramesh L., is a resident of Vishweshwaraiah Layout in Kengeri.

The complainant, Prakash K.S., alleged that he left home around 8.30 a.m. for work and received a call from his neighbour an hour later that the front door was ajar.

Prakash rushed to his residence and found that the door and lock were not broken. On checking the house, he found that the bag containing the valuables and cash was missing.

Jayanagar Inspector T. Radhakrishna zeroed in on Ramesh who visited Prakash's house and took a spare key six months ago and kept it back after he got a duplicate key. He stole the valuables using the duplicate key, the police said.

Emirati company Ducab to bid for various infra projects in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ducab Group, an Emirati company that manufactures advanced copper and aluminium wire and cable products, is in talks with Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. and Kempegowda International Airport to offer various kinds of fire survival, fire performance and extra high-voltage cables, and sustainable energy solutions.

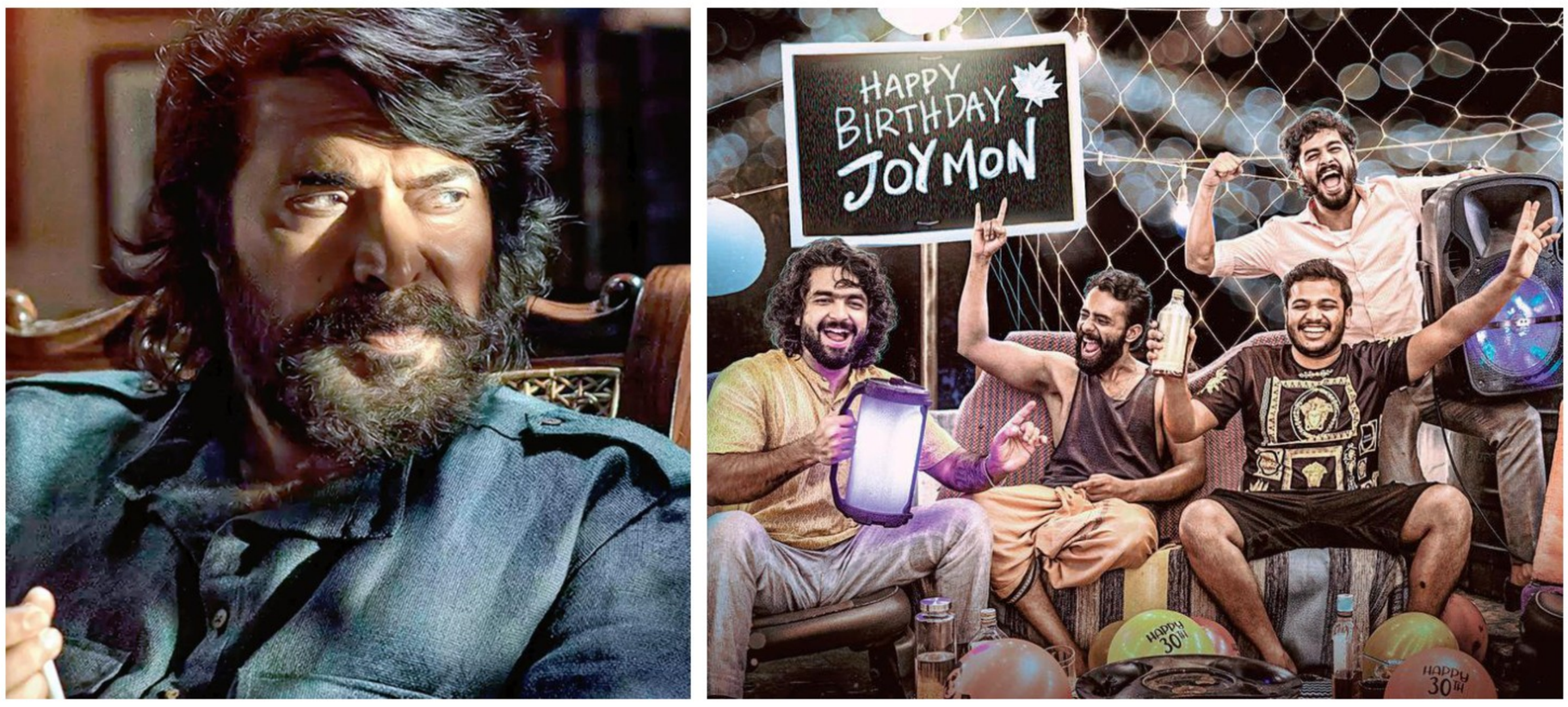
Ducab, in a media conference here on Thursday, said it would participate in various tenders in Karnataka to be part of various infrastructure and mobility-related projects.

Ducab Group CEO Mohammad Almutawa said: "We held talks with BMRCL to explore options to offer the corporation fire survival, fire performance and extra high voltage cables. We are also in talks mobility players and contractors in Bengaluru and other parts of India."

According to Mr. Almutawa, Ducab Group has already carried out business to the tune of ₹2,000 crore in India and it targets to double this in the next two years. The company is already working on mobility and transport projects in Delhi, Mumbai, Kanpur, Lucknow, and Agra.

The cable player also said it was keen to take advantage of the reduced taxes under the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) that was signed by India and UAE in 2022. Under the CEPA, the duties will come down to zero in five years, reducing 20% each year. This agreement is expected to boost non-oil trade between the two countries to $100 billion in five years from $60 billion currently.

IN THE LIMELIGHT



A still from *Bheeshmaparvam*; a still from *Jan-e-man*.

Why are Malayalam films struggling to attract theatrical audiences?

Even as a whopping 165 Malayalam films were released in theatres in 2022, hardly 15 of them managed to set the cash registers ringing. While exhibitors and producers often tend to blame OTT platforms, the problem might be a little bit more deeper

Praveen S.R

Movie buffs who religiously head to theatres in Kerala on Fridays are now getting used to a disappointing sight, if the movie they are intending to watch is not a big release. With a sheepish smile, the person at the counter would tell them that there are not enough people to run a show. Five to ten people is the minimum occupancy that most theatre owners are looking for in order to screen a show, but the fact is that a large number of Malayalam releases these days are struggling to muster even these meagre numbers to get the show running.

Even as a whopping 165 Malayalam films were released in theatres in 2022, hardly 15 of them managed to set the cash registers ringing. This grim picture, which raises questions over the long-term sustainability of the industry, is a much less discussed side of contemporary Malayalam cinema, otherwise getting praised across the country for its fresh themes and experimentation. Ask any industry insider, and their finger would first point towards streaming platforms that bring latest releases to television sets, laptops or mobiles within a few weeks of the theatre opening.

Are OTTs to blame?

Until a few years back, the blame used to be placed squarely on big releases from other languages, especially Tamil. Now, OTT platforms have taken that place, with film exhibitors organisations routinely demanding that movies be released in these platforms only after a considerable interval after the theatrical release. They argue that the expectation that the movie would be available for streaming within a few days keeps the audience away from the theatres, unless it is a lavishly mounted film which demands a theatrical experience. The stellar box office record of Shah Rukh Khan's *Pathaan* is something that they highlight, where the makers of the film had earlier announced that it will be available on OTT platforms only 90 days after its release.

Yet, the audience preference for platforms is only part of the reason. If the theory about audiences preferring to watch only big visual extravaganzas in the theatres were true, what would explain the massive success of a small film like *Romancham*, that has been getting house full shows across the State ever since its release last week? Or that of another sleeper hit *Jan-e-man* amid all the COVID-19 restrictions in 2021, or *Jaya Jaya Jaya Jaya Hey's* dream run last year?

Exhibitors and producers are also critical about the trend of OTT-oriented filmmaking – movies shot inside resorts, hotel rooms or other limited locations, and having only a handful of characters – which they say is aimed at making a quick buck than anything else. A whole bunch of them have landed in theatres in recent times and have bombed. The most recent example of this was the Shaji Kailas-Mohanlal movie *Alone* which released two weeks back and lived up to the title as far as theatre occupancy was concerned. However, anyone who has seen *12 Angry Men*, *The Man from Earth* or even Mahesh Narayanan's recent *C U Soon* would not doubt the potency of a film intelligently conceived within limited spaces. Case in point is Maju's *Appan*, a movie made with a limited budget in a limited space, which got a direct OTT release, having content to stand on its own.

Blaming OTT platform saves industry insiders from spelling out one of the major reasons – the poor content of these films. Except for a few films like the Tovino Thomas-starrer *Dear Friend*, which failed mainly due to poor marketing despite being a well-crafted film, a majority were rehashes of the same old themes.

The lack of good content

Poor quality content was not just the preserve of the old guard last year. The young stars, known for being bravely experimental, and filmmakers making their debut, have all been part of absolute duds. For instance, Aishwarya Lekshmi's *Archana 31 Not Out*, a film with a laudable message spoiled by poor scripting, the Dileesh Pothan-Mathew Thomas starrer *Prakashan Parakkatte* and Shane Nigam's immensely dull *Ullasam* are not the kind of films we typically associate with these actors. For example, in *Ullasam* one of the "heroic" acts of the protagonist was his posing as a gay person to put a groom in trouble and stop the wedding.

Political satires used to be sure-shot winners in Malayalam cinema. But last year even such films like Sreenath Bhasi and Grace Antony's *Padachone Ingalu Katholi*, Arjun Ashokan and Chemban Vinod Jose starrer *Member Rameshan 9am Ward* and Joju George's *Oru Thathvika Avalokanam* sank without a trace. Again, these happened to be attempts to milk a popular genre without having anything novel to say. For that matter, one of the few campus movies this year also failed spectacularly at the box office. Ranjith Sankar's *4 years*, an overstretched college nostalgia piece, was set on the last day of a couple's campus life, but for the audience it was a day which took almost an eternity to get over.

The mass masala entertainers from the stars were also not sure bets last year, with only Mammootty's *Bheeshmaparvam* and Prithviraj's *Kaduva* having a good run, while Mohanlal's *Aaraattu* and *Monster* failed to excite even diehard fans. All of this sends a message that audiences cannot be drawn to the theatres unless there is a minimal effort to stray away from the formula. The earlier scenario of every other film getting an average run of one or two weeks, and some minimal collection, has now changed.

The future of the theatre

Seeing through the trend of people making OTT-oriented films, with an eye on some fast bucks without breaking a sweat, the platforms have, in the past few months, begun to insist on a theatrical release before purchasing a film for streaming. This has come as a blow for many, and has also led to a flurry of releases in the theatres in recent months. Quite a few of these films, made on a budget of ₹3-4 crore, have only managed to collect less than ₹10 lakh from the theatres. This consequently drives down the price for which they are eventually sold to digital platforms.

Quite a few exhibitors feel that this could, in the longer run, turn out to be positive for the industry, as it would disincentivise half-baked content aimed at getting money from streamers. But it will take a good part of the current year for the stock of movies already made with such an intent to exhaust their theatrical run. The ideal number of releases, industry insiders say, would be around 80 to 90 films annually, to ensure a decent run in the theatres for all films and to sustain the industry; even the biggest movie buffs would not turn up for even half of the 150 films released in the theatres.

The major OTT players between them take hardly 20 to 25 films from Malayalam annually, out of which a considerable number are star vehicles, while the rest of them depend on second rung players to mop up their films. The initial rosy days of streamers scooping up films as soon as they are announced are certainly over. The exhibitors are hoping that the audience can be brought back to the theatres even for smaller films, if the current expectation that these will be available on OTT platforms immediately is ended. This, they also hope, will in turn make filmmakers desist from taking shortcuts and actually attempt to make movies for the big screen.

As for movie buffs, they are waiting eagerly for the current glut to taper down, and for the many promising projects that are in the pipeline to arrive.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

"Mr. T. Srinivasan Chary (place not mentioned in the letter) wants to know the difference between 'meter' and 'metre.'"

"In British English, 'metre' refers to the basic unit of length in the metric system, equal to 39.37 inches. It also means 'rhythm in verse.' 'Meter' means 'apparatus which measures.' A water meter, an exposure meter. This also occurs as a suffix in words like thermometer and barometer. In American English, only 'meter' is used to convey all the senses of British 'metre' and 'meter.'"

"Mr. M. S. Venkataraman of Vysarpadi, Madras, wants to know the meaning of 'worsted.'"

" 'Worsted' means 'twisted woollen yarn or thread; cloth made from this.' It is not from the word 'worst! It is from the name of a village called 'Worsted.' The village is in Norfolk in England and it was here that such threads were first made. Hence the yarn is named after the village. I don't know if you are aware that the English word 'Calico' is from Calicut. Calico means 'a white imprinted cloth.' Such cloth was originally imported into England from Calicut. Hence the name 'calico' for the cloth."

"Mr. K. R. Saxena of Delhi wants to know whether Hindi 'dekko' is used in English."

"It is used as slang in British English. It is used in Britain in the fixed expression 'Let's have a dekko' in the sense of 'Let's have a look.' I don't know how extensively it is used but it is recorded in all good dictionaries published in recent times."

"Mr. I. Nageswara Rao of Nellore wants to know the pronunciation of the word 'giggle.'"

"It is pronounced 'gigl.' The two 'g's' in the word are pronounced like the 'g' in 'get' and 'go'. The word rhymes with the word 'wriggle.'"

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Nine-time Olympic champion Mark Spitz turns 73 on February 10. In honour of the legend, here is a quiz on records and facts about swimmers at the Games

Abhinaya. K

QUESTION 1
Ahead of the 1968 Mexico City games, Mark Spitz had predicted that he would take home six gold medals. How many medals did he actually win that year?

QUESTION 2
This swimmer went on to break Spitz's record for most gold medals won at a single Olympic Games. While Spitz set a world record in all seven categories, this swimmer came up short. Who was the swimmer and at which Olympics did he break the record?

QUESTION 3
Between 1992 and 2004, competing in four editions of the Games, this female swimmer held the record for winning most medals compared to any other female swimmer in Olympic history. She is also an anaesthesiologist and surgeon. Who is she? How many medals does she have?

QUESTION 4
While the U.S. holds the record for most number of Olympic swimming medals, which country holds the second place?

QUESTION 5
Fleeing from war-torn Syria, this young swimmer almost died on a treacherous boat journey to Europe. She was selected to represent the Refugee Olympic Team at the 2016 Rio Games. A movie released recently chronicled her inspiring journey to the Olympics. Who is the swimmer?

QUESTION 6
Who was the first male swimmer to break the 2:00 barrier at the Olympics in the 200 individual medley?

Visual question:
In the 1972 Munich Games, this swimmer was crowned the Queen of the Pool. Name the swimmer and the country she represented. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Morgan created volleyball in this institution. **Ans: YMCA; he initially called it Holyoke and Mintonette**
2. The number of players on each side and the name of the player who should touch the ball every time a team has the ball. **Ans: Six and 'setter'**
3. The number of touches allowed before the ball is returned over the net. **Ans: Three**
4. The defensive specialist who is not allowed to serve to the front line. **Ans: Libero, who wears a different colour from the rest of the team.**
5. The city where the FIVB is located. **Ans: Lausanne**
6. The meaning of 'floater'. **Ans: A serve that does not spin or rotate and moves in an erratic path**
7. The number of players on each side in beach volleyball. **Ans: Two**
8. The way the referee indicates that a back-row player has tried to block. **Ans: Hold up both hands high above the head**
9. The two other nations which have won three Olympic men's volleyball gold medals. **Ans: The U.S. and Brazil**
Visual: The first Indian volleyball player to become a professional. **Ans: Jimmy George**
Early Birds: Arunav Hazarika| Aman Dwivedy

Word of the day

Affable:
diffusing warmth and friendliness

Synonyms: genial, amiable, cordial

Usage: *She has such an affable smile.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/affablepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /'afəbl/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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is in
the
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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Nanditha Dinesh W/o Dinesh Chikkanna, residing at No.103, 1st Main, 2nd Cross, V L N Prabuddhalaya, Nisarga Layout, Bannerghatta, Bengaluru - 560083 have changed my name to Nanditha.S.K vida Affidavit dated 09.02.2023 sworn before Notary Gangaraju.B.N, Bengaluru.

I, JAGADISH .S ,Jagadisha. S, Jagadheesha.S S/O Suryanarayana iyer S born on 05/05/1960 residing at (# 37, 3rd stage Kandhayanagar Sri Rampura , Near kiransCoaching Center ,mysore , have changed my name to Jagadeesha .S vide affidavit dated 31/01/2023 at Mysore

I, VC Vishraanth (New Name), S/o Late Kondiah and Jayamma, R/o #95, Ground Floor, Kannur Lane, Near Kadusonapanahalli Bus Stop, B'lore-562149 have changed my name from Raghu.K and Raaghuu (Old names) to VC Vishraanth vide affiavit dtd 09.02.2023 swon before Notary A.Gerard, Bluru

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of General Public that our Clients are intending to purchase immovable property bearing Old site No. 40, Hosahalli (Vijayanagar) Gramathana, Jodi Kempapura Agrahara Dhakle, Kasaba Hobli, BNTQ, now New Municipal No. 4/3, having PID No. 34-30-4/3, 3rd Main Road, Hosahalli, B'lore, with building standing thereon and bounded on the East By: Property belongs to Chikka thayappa, West By: Road, North by : Passage measuring 2.6 ft x 36 ft and thereafter others property, South by : Private Property, Measuring E-W: 36 ft, N-S: 16 ft in all Measuring 576 sq ft from its owner Mr. T.YESHWANTH KUMAR, S/o., Mr. Putta Thammaiah, No. 37, T.D. Lane, Cottonpet, B'lore-53, Any person/s having objections to the said transactions can register their claim/s with documentary evidence with the undersigned within 7 days of publication hereof, failing which, our clients will proceed with the transactions and any claim/s received thereafter will not be entertained.

H.V.NAVEEN KUMAR RAO &
H.V.SUNIL KUMAR RAO
ADVOCATES
No. 57, 1 st Floor, Veerapillai Street, Bengaluru-01

RENTAL

WE NEED a Two - BHK Rental House (Furnished Accommodation) in Ballari City. Kindly Contact: +8830098874/ +9423833952

LEGAL NOTICE

DRAFT PAPER PUBLICATION
IN THE COURT OF THE XIX ADDL. SCJ AND ACMM AT BENGALURU (SCCH-17)
S.C. NO. 533/2022

Between:
M/s ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at: Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara-390007, having its head office at and branch office at: 4/10, Mythree tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur main road, Bengaluru-560068 through its Authorised representative.
Mr. Rohith Ali M ...Plaintiff
And:
Mr. Asgar Ali ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant:
Mr. Asgar Ali,
S/o. Mohammed Fiyaz,
Aged about 28 Years,
R/at. No. 25, 1st Cross,
Chamundi Nagar, Main Road,
RT Nagar, Bangalore- 560032

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of Rs.1,53,907.42/- along with interest at the rate of 15% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the XIX ADDL. SCJ AND ACMM AT BENGALURU (SCCH-17), in person or by a pleader, on the day of 21/03/2023 at 11:00 AM to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 30th day of January, 2022 at Bangalore.

By order of the Court
Assistant Registrar,
Hon,ble City Civil Court
Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner
'A', #3, Queens Road,
Bengaluru- 01

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PRAKASH Musaddi, S/O Vijay Kumar Musaddi, R/O NO.84K,3rd Cross, 4th Main, New Thippasandra,BLR–75, have changed my name as " Prakash Kumar Musaddi" vide afdvt dtd 08/02/2023

I, PHILIP Devaraj S/o Lawrence Jaya Prakash, residing at No.10, 2nd Floor, 2ns Cross, SMR Layout, Kanakagiri Main Road, Kalkere, Horamavu, Bengaluru-560043 have changed my name to Philip Devaraj Lawrence vide Affidavit dated 09.02.2023 sworn before Notary Gangaraju.B.N, Bengaluru.

LEGAL NOTICE

In the court of IV Addl. Senior Civil Judge Bangalore Rural District at Bengaluru
O.S No.986/2015

BETWEEN:
Sri. R.PUTTAIAH ...PLAINTIFF
AND: **Sri.S.RAMAIAH**
AND OTHERS ...DEFENDANTS

NOTICE TO PROPOSED DEFENDANTS No.6,8,9,10

I, Sri R Puttaiah s/o Late Ramaiah, Aged about 82 years, residing at No.93, Magadi Main Road, Kamakshipalya, Bengaluru, Do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:
1) Sri R Manjunatha, S/o Late Rama krishnappa, Aged about 46 years, residing at No.66/49, Garuda charpalya main road,Opp. Anjaneya Temple, Bangalore-560048.
2) Sri. Rikap Kumar Chordia, S/o Late Mangilal Chordia, Aged about 47 years, residing at No.12, Letanga Road, Verpery, Chennai-600007
3) Sri R Santhosh Kumar ,S/o Sri Ram Avathar Shaw, Aged about 36 years, residing at Shanthi Bhavan, Venkate-shwara Theater Road, Devansandra, KR Puram, Bengaluru-560036
4) Sri B V Jayaram, S/o Vankatagiri Gowda, Aged about 48 years, residing at No.297, Behind Canara Bank, Begur Village, Bangalore- 560068

The above said proposed defendants 1 to 4 are the correct address of the proposed defendants 6,8,9 and 10 .

Whereas the plaintiff herein has filed the above suit against the defendants for Specific Performance of the agreement of sale and during subsistence of the agreement of sale and the plaintiff came to know through credible information that , the proposed defendants 6,8,9 and 10 to deprive the legitimate right of the plaintiff the said proposed defendants allegedly purchased the portion of the schedule property from the defendants 1 to 5 by knowing fully well that , the suit is pending filed by the plaintiff against the defendants 1 to 5 . Therefore, this Honourable Court directed the plaintiff to take notice to the proposed defendants 6,8,9 and 10 in the above said case, the proposed defendants are hereby notified to appear before this court next hearing date 24/03/2023.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the agricultural land bearing Sy No .10 measuring 2 acres , situated in Bandapura village,Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk and bounded on the East BY: property of Smt. R Shakunthala in Sy No 11, West by: Remaining portion of the land in Sy No 10, North by: Property of Sri Anjanappa, South by : Property of Sri.Anjanappa.

Given under the hand and seal of this IVth ADDL. SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE, BANGALORE RURAL DISTRICT AT BENGALURU ON 06/02/2023 at 11 A.M.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT,
CHIEF MINISTERIAL OFFICE,
Senior Civil Judge's Court,
Bangalore Rural Dist. Bangalore

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **ELROY SIDDARTH DAS CORREIA,** Aged about 35 years, resident of S2/1, Green Hill Apartments, Borda, Fatorda, South Goa, Salcete, Goa-403602 today at Bengaluru have changed my name from **ELROY SIDDARTH DAS CORREIA** to **ELROY CORREIA** vide affidavit dated : 13.01.2023 sworn before Advocate and Notary Sri. D.G. Shanthappa, at Bengaluru.

I, BHARATI, spouse of No.13615723K Sankar Das, resident of No.23/1, 9th Cross, Thimmaiah Garden, R.T.Nagar, Bengaluru - 560032 have changed my name from Bharati To Bharati Das vide Affidavit dated 08.02.2023 before Notary Sivakumara.M.N, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that, our client intends to PURCHASE the immovable property more fully described in the schedule property hereunder from present owner **Mrs. YASHODAMMA,** Wife of late M. Basavaiah, residing at Hennagara Village, JiganiHobli, Anekal Taluk, represented by her registered General Power of Attorney Holder Mr. Manjunath.N, Son of Mr. Narayanappa, residing at Sarjapura Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District.

Any persons, financial institutions having any sort of claim / rights / interest / charge on the below said property or any objections for the said sale of the property may file their objections in writing along with supporting documents, addressed to the undersigned within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, it shall be construed that there are no claims of any sort over the below said property and our client shall be advised to proceed with the proposed transaction. Any claims thereafter shall not be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of the Land bearing New Survey No.14/4 [Old No.14/2 earlier Sy No.14] measuring to an extent of 0-20.04 Guntas, situated at Chikkadunnasandra Village, SarjapuraHobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on the;

East by : Land belonging to Muniyamma , W/o. Begur Gundappa ;
West by : Land belonging to Venkataswamy, S/o. Hanumaiah;
North by : Land belonging to DoddaAmmaiah;
South by : Land belonging to Ramaiah

LAW PARK ASSOCIATES
Sd/- **S.M. Manjunatha,** Advocate,
Law Park Associates,
6th Sector, HSR Layout,
Bangalore-560 102.
+91 80 41715959 / +91 98456 65379
helpdesk@lawpark.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Mrs. Lalitha R. Patre wife of Mr. Patre S Rajashekhar and Mr. Patre S Rajashekhar, son of Late Patre K. Shivappa, both residing at 2nd Floor, "Traan Eldorado", No. 28/2, Lavelle Road, Bengaluru – 560 001 have agreed to sell their property (being residential portion) bearing No.103 having Municipal Khatha No.28/3 having PID No.76-23-28 comprising the second floor, third floor, and terrace portions, in all measuring 5700 Square feet of super built up area together with 41.30% or 1,406 square feet of undivided share of land and two exclusive car parks in the basement of the property No. 28/2, Lavelle Road, Bengaluru – 560 001, the entire building bounded on the East by Old Lavelle Road, West by House bearing Old No. 19/A, North by New Lavelle Road, and South by House bearing Old No. 19 to me the undersigned. Any person having any objection to the sale may contact the undersigned within 10 days of this publication with supporting documents, failing which the transaction will be proceeded with.

Karan Makhija
346, Makhija Cottage,
4th Main Road,
Sadashivnagar,
Bangalore 9845013619

IN THE COURT OF THE VII ADDITIONAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE BENGALURU RURAL DISTRICT AT BANGALORE
O.S.No. 1661/2005

Between
Smt. Uma & others----- Plaintiff and Sri.H.K. Venu & others---- Defendants

NOTICE TO THE LRs of Plaintiff No.1 (a) to (c)

1. **(a) Sri. Prabhu**
S/o. Muniswamireddy, Aged about 58 years
1(b) Smt. Bhavani W/o. Anilkumar, Aged about 33 years, residing at Devarachikkanahalli Village, Bellandur Post- 560035
1(c) Sri. Venu S/o. Prabhu Aged about 28 years, Plaintiff No.1(a) and (c) both are residing at No.121, Bommasandra, Bengaluru-560039

Whereas the above name plaintiff has instituted, a suit for partition and separate possession
You are hereby sunmons to appear before this Hon'ble Court, at Bangalore. **Either in person or by a pleader duly instructed on 28.02.2023 at 11.00 clock to answer the same, failing which the same suit will be disposed of ex-parte in your absence.**
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this 08.02.2023.

By order of the court Chief Ministerial officer, Senior Civil Judge's Court, Bangalore Rural Dist. Bangalore

Advocate for plaintiff No.3
BV Manjunatha Gowda, Advocate,
No.39/2, ASVNV Bhavan, Chamber No.71, 6th Floor, KG Road, Bangalore-560009
Mob: 9342025252

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
M.I & G.W.D. DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR
No.EE/MID/VJP/AE-1,2,3/4702,2702/TND/2022-23/4010 **Date: 04.02.2022**
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department, Division Vijaypur invites work tenders through "E-Procurement" from eligible contractor on item rate Tender for following works as per KTPP Act-2000 and latest amendments.
NON-NBD Works:- Total 4 Works, Estimated Cost **Rs.443.08 Lakhs, Tender Period for the above work are Three (3) to Nine (9) Months including monsoon.**
M&R Work:- Total 01 Work, Estimated Cost **Rs.70.45 Lakhs, Tender Period for the above work is Six (6) Months including monsoon.**
Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka E-Procurement website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.seam under login for Contractors from **13.02.2023.** Tenders may be submitted on electronically in E-Procurement portal up to **16.00hrs.** on **24.02.2023.** Interested contractors information regarding works may be obtained from this office (Ph.No.08352-277188) or e-Procurement helpdesk (Ph.No.080-25501216 & 080-25501227) upto **17.30hrs.** on **23.02.2023.** Other details can be seen in the tender documents. Pre-bid meeting will be held on **17.02.2023** for work costing above 1.00Crore in the office of the Executive Engineer, MI&GWDD Division, Vijaypur. Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
MI & GWDD Division,
Vijayapur

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/847/ಕೆಎಸ್.ಎಂಸಿಎ/2022–23

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-2,
BSWML, 2nd Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Bengaluru - 560056.

No: DGM-2/BSWML/TEND/17/2022-23 **Date: 09-02-2023**

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM) - (2ND CALL)

(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

1) The Deputy General Manager-2, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the **Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru** invites bids from eligible bidders for the works detailed in the table below. The Bidders may submit tenders for works given in the table through e-Procurement Portal of the Government of Karnataka **(viz. www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in).** The Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the instructions to bidders to qualify for award of the contract.
2) Tender document may be downloaded from the e-Procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka.
3) Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. Amount put to tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD Amount (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender Document	Contract Completion Period
1	Renovation of KCDC Administrative Office Building.	**45.00**	**90,000/-**	As per e-Procurement Portal	3 months
2	Scientifically Shifting of Inerts and Other unusable Materials from KCDC Plant to Designated Bellahalli Landfill Location by using 10 Wheeler Tippers.	**38.00**	**76,000/-**	As per e-Procurement Portal	3 months

Calendar of Events:

- Last Date for Receipt of Tenders on **24-02-2023 upto 4.00 PM.**
- Date of Opening of Technical Bids on the Website: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** will be **on 27-02-2023 after 4.30 PM or next working day.**
- Opening of Financial Bids will be intimated to Technically Qualified Bidders.
- Before submission of online bids, bidders must ensure that scanned copies of all the necessary documents have been attached with bid.
- All the required information required for bids must be filled and submit online.
- Any corrigendum / addendum will be published in the e-Portal only.
- For details, registration and e-Payment visit GOK E-Procurement Website: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or contact e-Procurement Helpdesk at **080-22441076** this tender notice can also be seen on the BBMP Website: **www.bbmp.gov.in**

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-2, BSWML.

DIPR/CP/4604/Adverto/2022-23

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U40109KA2002SGC030438)

Tender Notification (Through e-procurement portal)

The Superintending Engineer (Ele), O&M Circle, BESCOM, Davanagere invites the tender for Enquiry No.: **Enq-12.** Particulars : **Replacement of damaged 01No of D –Type 66kV DC Narrow BASED Tower by 01 No of D –Type 66kV DC Narrow BASED Tower with Rabbit ACSR conductor on Total Turn Key Basis at Takkanahalli Village (Tungabhadra river crossing) in O&M-1 section Honnali sub division, Harihara Division including Civil work on percentage quoting basis** Bid Documents available from 1**3.02.2023 @ 16:00 hrs.** Last date and time to submit bid documents: **27.02.2023 @ 16:00 hrs** Opening of Bid Documents: **28.02.2023 @ 17:00 hrs**. The bidding documents can be downloaded through the e-procurement portal from the web site **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** Aspiring bidders need to register on e-procurement portal. Further, bidders can take assistance with e-procurement help desk at **080-25501216 and 080-25501227.**

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer (Ele),
O&M Circle, BESCOM, Davanagere

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download "BESCOM Mithra" Mobile APP

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office, MESCOM BHAVANA, Kavoor Cross Road, Bejai, Mangaluru - 575 004.
Ph: 0824-2885795, CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No. MESCOM/PROC/PURC/189/2022-PROC **Date: 08.02.2023**
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

MESCOM invites SHORT TERM tender for Manufacture & Supply of following material:

Tender No.	Name of the Material proposed for Procurement	Quantity
MESCOM/2022-23/ IND921	Double Pole TC Set for 4/5 Star Rated Transformers-MS	3200 Sets
MESCOM/2022-23/ IND922	7/10 SWG Guy Wire	400 MT

The interested eligible bidders may log on to **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 10.02.2023.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.)(Proc.) Corporate Office

For Power Related Complaints & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

Government of Karnataka
Department of Agriculture

Commissionerate of Agriculture, Seshadri Road, Bangalore-560001

No. SFS-5/Seed Tender/Kh-2023/2022-23 **Date: 06.02.2023**

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

e-Procurement tenders are invited from the reputed Seed Producing agencies or their authorized agencies for supply of Certified/TL seeds during Kharif 2023 in respect of Paddy, Maize, Jowar, Bajra, Ragi, Minor Millets, Redgram, Blackgram, Greengram, Cowpea, Groundnut, Soybean, Castor, Cotton and Sunflower. This tender is called for sourcing the required quantities of seeds on consignment basis.

The interested supplier can download the tender Document through e-Procurement website free of cost. The Tenderer intending to participate in this tender have to register with Centre for e-Governance, 1st Floor, M.S. Building, Bangalore-01 and obtain the DSC key or e-token.

The tender documents are available from **08-02-2023** on e-Procurement website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** The last date for submission of tender through online is **08-03-2023 up to 5.00 P.M.** Technical bid will be opened through online at **11.00 A.M. on 13-03-2023** at Sambhrama Hall, Department of Agriculture, Sheshadri Road, Bangalore.

Sd/-
Director of Agriculture

DIPR/CP/4594/Zen/2022-23

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: SEE/T(W&M)/EEE(O)/AEE-1/MYS/22-23/6486-90 Dt: 09.02.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-Procurement Mode Only)

KPTCL invites bids for the following works **on PTK Basis.**

(1) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/EEE(O)/AEE-1/T(W&M)/MYS/REPL/35 for **"Replacement of 2x8MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformer by 2x12.5MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformer at 66/11kV Chikkamandya Sub-station in Mandya Taluk, Mandya District".**

(2) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/EEE(O)/AEE-1/T(W&M)/MYS/REPL/21 for **"Replacement of 2x8MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformer by 2x12.5MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformer at 66/11kV Mahadeshwarapura Sub-station in Pandawapura Taluk, Mandya District.".**

The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"e-Procurement-KPTCL"** or **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **13.02.2023.** Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Ele.,
Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, 1st Floor,
Prasarana Bhavana, FTS Compound, N.R. Mohalla,
Mysuru-570007. Ph: 0821-2455018

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SUPERITENDENT CENTRAL PRISON, PARAPPANA AGRAHARA, ELECTRONIC CITY POST, BENGALURU-560100

No: CPB:TENDER/1122/2022-23 Date: 07.02.2023

e-Procurement Notice

The purchase of Factory/Bakery raw materials to Bengaluru Central Prison and Hair Cutting and Shaving for Prisoners District Prisons Chhikkaballapura, Tumakuru, Ramangara which comes under Zone of Central Prison Bengaluru for the year 2023-24 through e-Procurement as per the KTTP Act.

Brief detail of tender: (1) The purchase of Bakery Raw Materials to Central Prison, Bengaluru under Lot-13. **(2)** the purchase of Factory raw materials to Central Prison, Bengaluru under Lot-14 & Lot-15. **(3)** Providing Service to Hair Cutting and Shaving to the inmates of district Prisons Chhikkaballapura, Tumakuru and Ramanagara which comes under jurisdiction of Central Prison Bengaluru. Tender Indent No. and EMD Amount & Last date for submission: As per e-Portal. Suppliers can also take assistance with e-Procurement help desk at 080-25501227, 25501216. For further details please visit at **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or Helpline No. 080-25501227, 25501216.

DIPR/DD-CP/4542/MCA/2022-23 **Sd/- Chief Superintendent, Central Prison, Bengaluru**

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Malleshwaram Division, 2nd Cross, Jaladarshini Layout, MSR Nagar, Mathikere, Bengaluru - 560 054.

No.EE/MLM/E-PROC/21/22-23 Date: 09.02.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only) (Single Cover System)

The Executive Engineer, Malleshwaram Division, invites tenders from eligible Contractors for the works detailed in the table below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approximate Value of work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs.)
	SINGLE COVER SYSTEM		
1	Basic Infrastructure programs in ward No. 60. (Call-2)	5.00	12,500/-
2	Fencing of BBMP Assets in ward No. 64. (Call-2)	9.51	23,775/-

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement portal. **2)** Last date and time for receipt of tenders: **20.02.2023 upto 4.00 p.m. 3)** Opening of tenders: **22.02.2023 at 11.30 a.m.** Further details can be accessed from GoK e-procurement website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Malleshwaram Division.

Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Bagalkot

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
Room No. 126, Navanagar, Bagalkote.
Phone : 08354-235042, E-mail : bgkeezpe@yahoo.com

No: EE/PRED/BGK/PB-3/BD/Tender/2022-23/5275 Date : 08-02-2023

SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (KW-4 Bid Document)

Tender Called for the Work in the above notification through E-mode tendering is read as below.

Item rate Tender under **Two Cover Bid System** is invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement ACT 1999 and Rules 2000 **Standard Bid Document KW-4** through Public electronic Tendering System (E-Tender from Class-1 contractor (Civil) registered in KPWD, Who have got adequate financial resources, State of Technology, Suitable Construction equipments technical man Power & Sufficient past Experience for the following Work as per Schedule Given Below.

Tender Called for Rashtriya Madhyamik Shikshan Abhiyan (RMSA) ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಮಾಧ್ಯಮಿಕ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಅಭಿಯಾನ ಯೋಜನೆ (ಆರ್.ಎಮ್.ಎಸ್.ಎ.) ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ **2009–10, 2010–11, 2013–14** ರಿಂದ **2017–18** ರವರೆಗೆ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾದ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ 9 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ರೂ. 1379.21 ಲಕ್ಷ ಅನುದಾನಕ್ಕೆ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಯೋಜನಾ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಸಮಗ್ರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಜ್ಞಾಪನಾ ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಸ.ಶಿ.ಕ/ಸಿ.ಶಾ/ರಾಯೋ.ಅ/2020–21/ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 15–03–2021 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. 351.08 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ ಮಿತಿಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು)

Scheme Under Work Indent No : 99907 read as below.

CALENDAR OF EVENT

1) Request of blank Tender Documents and receipt of Completed Technical & Financial Bid through e-procurement. Dt : 08-02-2023 to 24-02-2023 at 5.30 p.m. 2) Pre-Bid meeting Date : 21-02-2023 at 11.00 a.m. 3) Opening of Technical Bid Date : 27-02-2023 at 11.00 a.m. 4) Opening of Financial Bid Date : After approval of Technical Bid.

Note:-More details can be obtained through website **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the below signed Office during the office hours. **Phone : 08354 - 235 042.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
P.R.E. Division, Bagalkote.

DIPR/Bagalkote/860/Manipal/2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
(www.kpwd.gov.in)

Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Bangalore Division, 2nd Floor, PWD Annexure Building, K.R. Circle, Bangalore-01
Telephone No. 080-22133370, Fax No. 080-22133365
Email ID: eepwdbngdn@yahoo.com
E-Portal : https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Tender Notification No. 53/2022-23
Dated: 08.02.2023

Item-rate tenders, for the work in Nelamangala Sub Division under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for procurement of works from the contractors registered in K.P.W.D. as per e-procurement procedure. Tender Notification are Published for 01 works (**Rs. 200.00 Lakhs**) Details of the tender works can be obtained from the above Office during office hours on working days. **EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in E-procurement portal.** Eligible contractors interested in tendering for the work may apply for the tender through e-procurement.

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from Dated: **08.02.2023 onwards.**
2) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **16:00 hours on dated 16.02.2023**
3) The opening of tenders through e-procurement portal on dated **17.02.2023 at 16.30 hours** or further date and time will be Intimate.

For more details can be had from e-procurement portal (**http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**)

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
DIPR/CP/4597/Zen/2022-23 **PWD, Bangalore Division, Bangalore.**

Government of Karnataka
Public Works Department Office of the Executive Engineer, Davanagere Division, Davanagere.

Notice No.: IFT-46/JE-1/2022-23 Date: 07.02.2023

Corrigendum Notice

Sub.: Regarding publication of Tender Corrigendum Notice
Ref: Tender Notice No. of this office: EE/DDD/ IFT-46/JE/2022-23 Date: 01.02.2023

Dates of the works in Tender of this office vide No.: IFT-46/2022-23, Date: 01.02.2023 have been changed due to technical reasons and Corrigendum is published as below.

Original Notice:- Pre-Bid Meeting place: Executive Engineer, P.W. Department, P.B. Road, Davanagere and Date: 09.02.2023 at 11.00 AM

Corrigendum Notice:- Pre-Bid Meeting place: Office of the Chief Engineer, Communication & Buildings (South), K.R. Circle, Bengaluru and Date: 14.02.2023 at 11.00 AM

Revised Dates:- (1) Date fixed for Tender objections 10.02.2023 up to 4.30 PM (2) Last date for receiving Tender 21.02.2023 up to 4.30 PM (3) Date of opening Technical Bid 22.02.2023 up to 4.30 PM (4) Date of opening Financial Bid 27.02.2023 up to 4.30 PM There are no other changes in the Tender process. Further details can be obtained from the above office during office hours (Phone: 08192-234951, 231530) or website: http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/895/ಕೆಎಸ್.ಎಂಸಿಎ/2022–23

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD, Davanagere

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited

(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

No. KPTCL/GMT/CIVIL(B121)/3/2023(E-47943) **Date: 09.02.2023**

KPTCL invites electronic bids from eligible bidders for **supply and installation of 13 Nos. of mechanical mobile compactors in the renovated office space in 2nd, 1st and ground floors of 'A', 'B' & 'C' blocks of Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru. The offers will be received through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only.** Other details regarding qualifying requirements, delivery period, EMD and details regarding participating in e-procurement process etc., can be obtained by logging onto KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **E-Procurement KPTCL** or **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **13.02.2023.** Last date for receipt of electronic bids is upto **15.00 hours on 27.02.2023.** Any details required in this regard can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours. (Telephone No.: **080-22238784**).

Sd/- General Manager (Tech),
KPTCL, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru - 560009.

A BG-BGE

Road-widening stalled as BDA delays handing over land, claims BMRCL

While the BDA Commissioner says the land has already been transferred for the work near K.R. Puram railway station, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. avers it is not so

Suchith Kidiyoor
BENGALURU

Road-widening work at K.R. Puram in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL), which had taken up works to widen the road from Tin Factory skywalk to K.R. Puram railway station, is unable to complete the work as the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has failed to transfer a patch of land required for the project.

While BDA Commissioner G. Kumar Naik claimed the authority had already transferred the land, senior BMRCL officials said that it was yet to be handed over to them, proving to be a hurdle for widening the key road.

The BMRCL needs this land to barter it with South Western Railway (SWR) so that they can widen the road near the K.R. Puram railway station. Widening of the road will help motorists coming from Benniganahalli flyover moving towards Whitefield and Silk Board. At present, the narrow roads under the cable bridge is a traffic bottleneck.

As per BMRCL officials, a compensation of ₹8 crore has been paid to the BDA for acquiring the 3,600 sq m of land near the railway station. "They have agreed to provide the land. BDA had acquired this property long ago but did not take physical possession of the land. Over the years, 40 odd structures, including commercial and residential structures of ground plus three storeys, have come up on this land. We had agreed to compensate for structures located on this land. Once the BDA hands over the land, the BMRCL will transfer the property to SWR," a BMRCL official said.

The official said that a parking lot located under the cable bridge will make way for the widening of the road. It is said that SWR will provide a parking lot and other passenger amenities in the new property that will be handed over by the BMRCL.

Widening of the road is also very crucial as BMRCL is all set to open the K.R. Puram to Whitefield metro line for commercial operations in March. There is a plan to run feeder services from Byappanahalli to K.R. Puram station till the entire purple line from Baiyappanahalli to Whitefield becomes operational by mid-year.

To decongest the area, the State government had tasked BMRCL to widen the roads located on either side of the cable bridge and construct bus bays near Tin Factory. The BMRCL has spent ₹340 crore for land acquisition. The two lines of Namma Metro - Whitefield to Baiyappanahalli and Central Silk Board to Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) - go via this stretch.

An official of the BMRCL said: "We are working on the construction of bus bays in the area. There is a proposal to dismantle the Tin Factory skywalk to facilitate the construction of the airport line. The skywalk will be dismantled after operationalising Benniganahalli metro station. Pedestrians will be allowed to use the station to cross the road by using the concourse area."

For the benefit of passengers, the BMRCL has proposed to construct a foot over bridge connecting the railway and metro station.

Probe ordered into allegation of UKG student being failed in test

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The parent of a six-year-old child studying in UKG at Anekal has alleged that the school "failed" his daughter in a test, contrary to rules. As his post on social media went viral, drawing the ire of many, including former Minister S. Suresh Kumar, the Department of School Education and Literacy has ordered an inquiry.

St. Joseph Chaminade Academy had conducted a unit test before the December break in which the child got 62.5%, but was declared "fail" in rhymes, a subject in which she secured only five marks out of 40.

The child's parent Manoj Badal took to social media to flag the issue, reportedly after his efforts to sort out the issue with the school failed. "Being declared "fail" is beyond her understanding and will likely cause her mental trauma too," he said.

The school held a unit test in which the child got 62.5%, but was declared 'fail' in rhymes, in which she scored five marks out of 40

School's contention

However, Saju Chittadiyil Augusty, principal of the school, claimed that the student being declared "fail" was a "software error" and the school does not fail students.

"Moreover, we are in the middle of the academic year and this is regarding only a test. The school does not detain students. We have given a progress report to parents which doesn't mention "fail", but the child has been given a 'C' grade in a subject. But, on the mobile app the software used declares any student who has scored less than 35% as fail. We will fix this," he said.

Development educationist Niranjanaradhya V.P. said this incident only showed the ignorance and lack of pedagogical understanding of the school management. "Failing a child of UKG is a violation of sections 16, 17 and 29 of the RTE Act, 2009", he said.

Baylanjanappa, DDPI, Bengaluru South, said the school had been issued a notice and an inquiry was under way.

Man appears for questioning after taking poison

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Tension gripped the personnel at Chandra Layout police station when a 30-year-old delivery executive, accused of harassing his female friend, came to the station to face inquiry and informed the police that he had consumed poison. The police rushed him to KIMS hospital where he is said to be out of danger.

Anil was allegedly harassing his female friend. She approached the station and filed a complaint accusing him of sexual harassment, criminal intimidation, and verbally abusing her over phone.

The police are awaiting for his recovery to question him.

CCB arrests 11 peddlers and recovers ₹1.3 cr. worth of synthetic drugs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The CCB in its month-long special drive against drugs cracked five cases, arrested 11 peddlers, and recovered synthetic drugs worth ₹1.3 crore.

Sharanappa, Joint Commissioner of Police, said the seized cache of drugs includes 926 gm of MDMA crystals, 50 gm of 117 MDMA ecstasy tablets, 3.8 gm of LSD strips, and 83.7 gm of Hashish oil.

Explaining the modus operandi of the peddlers, Mr. Sharanappa said many of the accused were from Kerala and Africa.

Referring to another case where peddlers were from Kerala, they would keep the drugs in isolated and unsuspected places before sending a picture and location details to the mobile number of the customer. The payment was made online and the no cheating took place while delivering the drugs.

Other incidents

In another case, registered in Banaswadi, peddlers from Kenya and Tanzania would sell the drugs to customers visiting "Africa Kitchen", a restaurant started by an African national. In another incident, peddlers in K.R. Puram hired a few college dropouts to rent a house so that they could use the houses to store drugs. This was to avoid undue attention of the police and to employ "clean faces" to the racket.

Auction of fancy numbers fetches ₹38.95L

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Transport Department has fetched ₹38.95 lakh by auctioning fancy numbers. The RTO (East) in Bengaluru auctioned numbers in KA 03 NQ series.

The highest bid was made for number 9999, the owner spent ₹7.75 lakh to own the fancy number. The number 7777 was sold at ₹2.8 lakh and ₹2.55 lakh was the highest bid for 0001. In a press release, the transport Commissioner said a total of 29 fancy numbers were auctioned by the RTO.

VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
(State University of Government of Karnataka Established as per the VTU Act, 1994)
'Jnana Sangama', Belagavi - 590 018, Karnataka State
Phone:(0831)2405468Fax:(0831)2405467

Ref. No. VTU/PS/2022-23/6750 Date :09.02.2023

NOTIFICATION

Sub: Twenty-Second Annual Convocation of VTU – reg.

It is hereby informed that **the Twenty-Second Annual Convocation of VTU is scheduled to be held on Friday, the 24thFebruary 2023,at11-30 a.m., in the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Auditorium of VTU, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi.** The awardees of degree are hereby cordially invited to attend the Convocation.

The Convocation Ceremony will be held in two sessions, as mentioned below:

First Session: 11-30a.m. to 1-30 p.m.

Degree Awarding Ceremony

Degree will be awarded to all the Gold Medalists and First Rank Holders of the Under Graduate and Post Graduate Programmes of the academic year 2021-2022.

Second Session: 4-00 p.m. to 5-30 p.m.

Ph.D. Degree Certificates will be issued to the eligible candidates of the academic year 2021-2022.

All the candidates are required to note the following

The candidates shall :

- Enter the Auditorium only as per their applicable session as mentioned above
- Be present in the Auditorium with neat white dress as mentioned in the University Website
- Occupy the seats in the Auditorium at least half an hour earlier to the commencement of Convocation function
- To follow the COVID-19 SOPS prescribed by the Government from time to time
- Candidates having any symptoms of fever / cold / cough, are advised not to attend the Convocation Ceremony.
- Standup when the Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka the Chancellor and other dignitaries enters the hall and occupies the chairs
- Maintain silence and discipline throughout the function
- Switch off mobile phone in the premises
- Not to leave their position till the dignitaries, leaves the hall after the function is over
- Follow the instructions issued by the Registrar(Evaluation) regarding Registration and other details of Convocation.

Other candidates, who wish to collect the Degree Certificates personally, can collect the same from the Office of the Registrar (Eval.) the next working day on **27th February between 12-00 noon and 5-30 p.m.**,on producing valid identity card issued by the college. For others, the certificate will be sent by Post immediately after the Convocation

By order
(Dr. B. E. Rangaswamy)
Registrar

APPOINTMENT

भारतीय प्रबन्धन संस्थान तिरुचिरापल्ली
Indian Institute of Management Tiruchirappalli

FACULTY RECRUITMENT
Advertisement No.: EST-I/A-02/2023/001

Indian Institute of Management Tiruchirappalli invites online applications from interested candidates for the following positions on or before **March 02, 2023:**

Faculty Positions:
Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor Grade-I

For full details regarding qualifications, experience, job profile, terms & conditions, and other requirements, please visit:
https://www.iimtrichy.ac.in/careers

Last date for submitting application is 02.03.2023 till 23:59 hrs

NOTICE

To,
The Members
Genpact India Private Limited Employees Provident Fund Trust
and Genpact Mobility Services Employees Provident Fund Trust

This notice concerns the persons who have been members of Genpact India Private Limited Employees Provident Fund Trust or Genpact Mobility Services Employees Provident Fund Trust ("Trust") during the course of their employment with Genpact India Private Limited (earlier known as Genpact India and GE Capital International Services (GECIS) at different times), or Genpact Services LLC or Genpact Mobility Services India Private Limited ("Company").

This is to bring to the notice of all such members that the Trust will be initiating transfer of the trust funds to the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) effective April 1, 2023 subject to necessary regulatory approvals

Our records indicate that some members of the Trust have not claimed withdrawal/transfer of their Provident Fund balances from the Trust after cessation of their employment with the Company.

Accordingly, members of the Trusts who have exited from the Company or their legal heir (as the case may be) are requested to contact the Trust through the email address given below and to undertake the necessary steps to withdraw/transfer their fund balance, if the same is due and unclaimed as on date. Please mention your Genpact OHR ID while writing an email **genpactpfprogram@sgcservices.com**

We hereby call upon members of the Trust, as referred to above, to contact us at the earliest. The cooperation and support of all members of the Trust is appreciated.

Genpact India Private Limited
Genpact Services LLC
Genpact Mobility Services India Private Limited

HC directs BBMP to submit report on action taken against illegal hoardings

High Court also directs BBMP to initiate action, including registration of FIR, if no action has been initiated so far

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Taking note of allegations that illegal hoardings, flexes, and banners were indiscriminately put up across the city, the High Court of Karnataka on Thursday directed the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to submit a report on the permissions granted for erecting hoardings, and action taken against illegal hoardings.

The court also directed the BBMP to initiate action, including registration of First Information Report (FIR), if no action was initiated so far. It also directed senior officers of the BBMP to initiate action against subordinate officials who were required to prevent putting up of hoardings illegally.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Ashok S. Kinagi passed the interim order on a PIL petition, filed in 2017 by Mayige Gowda, a resident of Bengaluru.

Obstructing movement

From the photographs submitted by G.R. Mohan, advocate for the petitioner, the Bench noted that a large number of hoardings were put up in the busy areas of the city and some of the hoardings appeared to be obstructing the movement of vehicles.

Earlier, senior advocate Vikram Huilgol, who has been appointed as *amicus curiae*, suggested that the BBMP should explain whether permissions were granted for a large number of political signages put up across the city recently as alleged by the petitioner.

Mr. Huilgol pointed out to the Bench that the BBMP Outdoor Signage and Public Messaging Bylaws, 2018, contain exhaustive provisions regulating the placement of signages and hoardings and the bylaw prohibits all off-premise private advertising.

What BBMP can do

The *amicus curiae* also informed the court that the bylaw empowers the BBMP to remove without notice the signage put up in public place without authorisation and to initiate penal action, and the bylaw allows display of political and non-commercial signages only with the permission of the property owner and permits from the BBMP.

The Bench adjourned further hearing till March 7 while directing the BBMP to respond to the issues raised by the *amicus curiae* and allegations levelled by the petitioner.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Lalmani Vishwakarma S/o Late. Ramratan Vishwakarma R/a No. 1158, 3rd Cross, 25th Main Road, LIC Colony, J.P.Nagar 1st Phase, Bangalore – 78 do here by solemnly affirm and state oath as that in my Passport my name has been mentioned as Lalmani Ramratan Vishwakarma, But my true, correct and continue my name as **Lalmani Vishwakarma (Correct name)** only in all my future records, deeds, writings, proceedings, transactions private as well as upon all occasions whatsoever vide affidavit sworn before Advocate and Notary Arvind Patil.G.G. on 06.02.2023.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, **Mr. AJAY B,** S/o. Sri. A. Balakrishna, aged about 31 years, r/at No.84, Erappa Reddy Layout, 2nd Cross, Near Maruthi School, Banaswadi, Bangalore -560 043 is intending to purchase the schedule mentioned property from its **owner SRI.P.RAMESH KUMAR, also called as PADMANABHUNI RAMESH KUMAR,** S/o. Late. Sri.P.Papaiah Setty, aged about 56 years, having Permanent address at # 1-8-138 B & C Prendeghast Road, Sindhi Colony, **SECUNDERABAD-500 003, TELANGANA.** The owner has represented that the schedule property is free from all encumbrances. Be it known, that if any person/s having any objections in respect of the schedule property they shall lodge their claim/objections with documentary proof to the undersigned within **15 (fifteen) days** from the date of publication of this notice. In the absence of receipt of any legally, valid claim/objections within the aforesaid period, my client will proceed with the purchase of the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of the immovable property bearing Residential Vacant **B.D.A Site No.2CC-417, PID No.84-149-2CC-417, situated at O.M.B.R Layout, Old Ward No.84, New Ward No.27, Bangalore, measuring East to West : 15.25 Meters and North tonSouth: 24.40 Meters, in all totally measuring 372.10 square meters of 4000 Sq.Ft** and bounded on the : **East by : Site No.2CC-419, West by : Site No.2CC-415, North by : Site No.4C-418, South by : 2ND "C" Cross Road.**

K. Mohan, Advocate,
No.64, 4th Cross, INDIRANAGAR
2ND STAGE, BANGALORE-560 038
Mobile. No. 9845234925
Bangalore Dated : 09-02-2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Mr. Bhupal Singh Bora, S/o. Mr. Narasingh Bora has intend to purchase of the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration with its owner Mr. R. Ravichandran, S/o. R. Ramasamy, Residing at No. 19, Sri Krupa, 2nd Street, Bank avenue, Babusa Palya, Dodda Banaswadi, Bangalore-560 043.

If any persons having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE

Residential Site No. 41, Panchayathi PID No. 150200300600321512, formed in land bearing Sy. No. 81/2, measuring East to West 40 Feet & North to South 30 feet Total measuring 1200 Sq. Ft. situated at Doddanagamangala Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and bounded on: East by : Site No. 34, West by : Road, North by : Site No. 40, South by : Site No. 42.

MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY, ROOPA. B, & B.N. JAGADISH KUMAR,
Advocates, # 96, 1st Floor, 1st Main, 4th Cross, Maruthi Nagar, Madiwala, Bangalore-560068,
Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
Bangalore, Date : 09-02-2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public are hereby informed that, **Mr.Amarnath Prabhu J.S. and Smt.Pavithra P.,** have proposed to purchase schedule property from its present owner **M/s.Platinum Infra** a partnership Firm represented by its Managing partner **Mr.Gopi Todeti, S/o.Mr.T.P.Alluraiah.** Person/s, Financial Institution/s, Bank objecting for the proposed purchase or having any right, share, title and interest in the Schedule property may lodge their objections/claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within **7 days** from this day of publication and any objection/claims received thereafter will not be binding on purchasers and they will proceed with purchase in respect of the below mentioned Schedule property as if there are no claims/objections.

-:SCHEDULE PROPERTY:-

All that piece and parcel of an Immovable property bearing **Site No.28,** carved out of the converted land bearing Sy.No.66/2, old Sy.No.66, Situated at **Shettihalli Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk,** measuring 2 Acres converted from agriculture to non agricultural residential purpose vide official Memorandum bearing No.ALN(N)(Y)SR/129/2014-15, dated 25-07-2015, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, now coming under the jurisdiction of BBMP, ward No.12, BBMP Khatha No.74/66/2/14, measuring East to West 50 Ft., and North to South 30 Ft., totally measuring 1500 Sq.Ft. and bounded on: **East by : Site No.24, West by : Road, North by : Site No.29, South by : Road.**

V.S.Rai & Associates, LAW FIRM
No.23,"Venkatadri" 6th Main,
5th Cross, S.R.Nagar, Bangalore-27.
Mob: 9844155041, 9620579310.

District Hospital, Chikkballapur

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender has been invited from Eligible Tenderers for Readymade Meals & Sliced and Packed Bread & Nandini Milk in District Hospital, Chikkaballapur (New Building). For the year 2023-24. Last date for submission of tenders is **03.03.2023 till 4.00 P.M.** More details can be obtained from District Surgeon, District Hospital. Chikkaballapur. Ph: 08156-272388.

Sd/- District Surgeon, District Hospital Chikballapur

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ ಆರ್.ಪಿ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 506/ ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಎ/ 2022–23

HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APTHAMITRA ON 14410

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
KARNATAKA STATE AIDS PREVENTION SOCIETY
Arogya Soudha, 4th Floor, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bangalore-560023.
Tel: 080-29557021 E-mail: pdksaps@gmail.com

No: KSAPS/PRC/14/2022-23 **Date: 09.02.2023**

INVITATION FOR TENDERS THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT

Tenders are invited for Printing & Supply of ART registers, formats & cards under E-Procurement system.

Details are available at e-procurement website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Last Date for submission of tender on **28.02.2023 at 5.30 PM.**

Sd/-
Project Director,
Karnataka Sate AIDs Prevention Society,
Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/AAA/4614/2022-23

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
ANAB ISO 9001:2015 NVT-QC CERTIFICATE NO. 2706005
'JAL BHAVAN', No. 6, 1st Stage, 1st Phase, BTM Layout
Bannerghatta Main Road, Bengaluru - 560 029
Ph : 080 - 4110 6508
e-mail:cemkwb@gmail.com Website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

CORRIGENDUM

Sub :- Request for Proposal (RFP) for appointment of Project Development and Management Consultant (PDMC) for Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 works in Karnataka State

Ref : 1. Tender Notification No. KWB/TEC/ CE(D&M)/ AMRUT 2.0/PDMC/Tender/1907/2022-23, dated:13.01.2023.
2. E-procurement portal work indent No. KUWSDB/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT3282

***

The last date and time of receipt of tenders in e-procurement portal was scheduled on 14.02.2023 upto 17.30 hours. In pursuant to Clause-2.3 of Section-2, Instructions to Consultants, the calendar of event for the above work is revised as under:

Revised Calender of Events :-	
1) Last date and time for submission/ uploading of the tender in the e-procurement portal.	**23.02.2023 at 17.30 hours**
2) Date and time for opening of Technical bid	**27.02.2023 after 11:00 hours**

The other terms and conditions of the bid document remain unaltered.

Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER (D&M), KUWS & D BOARD, BENGALURU

DIPR/CP/4600/AKAR/22-23

IDBI BANK
CIN:L65190MH2004GOI148838
IDBI BANK LTD
Website: www.idbibank.in

Office Premises Required in Whitefield, Bengaluru

Bank desires to acquire office premises on long lease. Interested parties owning suitable premises may apply to the Regional Head within 10 days (excluding the date of advertisement). Proposals received by **6.00 pm on 20th February, 2023** will only be accepted. Proforma and other details can be downloaded from our website **www.idbibank.in** under Notices-Tenders or collected from any of our branches.

Date: 10.02.2023
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/-
Chief General Manager - Bengaluru Zone

TAMILNADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION
Office of the Senior Regional Manager, Region: Chennai (North)
Ph. No. 94444 06439 Mail id.: tncscnorth@gmail.com
CIN: U15137TN1972SGC006157

No.: M4 / 001079 / 2023 **E-TENDER NOTICE** **Date: 10.02.2023**

E-TENDER No. : TNCSC 22 - 23 / ET / 62

Online electronic tender for "Transport contractors for transportation of paddy, Custom Milled Rice, Coarse grains, Gunnies and stocks related to procurement and Public Distribution System activities from various Direct purchase centre / Storage points / Buffer godowns / Rail head wagons to various Storage points / Godowns / Modern Rice Mills / Rail heads-wagons / FCI to storage points / Amudham Ration Shops / Corporation Retail Shops movement / etc within the district and outside the district as entrusted by Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation as specified in the nature of work for the period from March 2023 to February 2025."

(NOT TRANSFERABLE)

Complete e-Tender document can be viewed and downloaded through **"http://www.mstcecommerce.com** /eprochome / tncsc"
The bidders have to participate online bidding only with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III.
For Registration and further details contact MSTC LIMITED
Phone: 25222842 / 25251910 / 25261005. e-mail: mstcro@mstcindia.co.in
Last Date for Online Submission : **Upto 11.00 A.M. on 24.02.2023**

DIPR /886/ TENDER / 2023
"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம். சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"
Senior Regional Manager
TNCSC, Chennai (North).

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA Tel.06766-258301(O); email: se_nerwkjr@rediffmail.com
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : KEONJHAR

e Procurement Notice for Bridge Works under BSY Identification No. Bridge Online NCB No.361

No. 533 / Date : 08.02.2023

1. Name of the Work : **Construction of Bridge over Machhakandana Nallah on P.S.Silisuan to Kadagarh Road (Raft Foundation) in the district of Keonjhar for the year 2022-23 under BSY.**
2. No. of Work : **01 (One)** No.
3. Estimated Cost : **Rs.265.35 Lakhs (Approximately)**
4. Class of Contractor (Eligible) : **"B" & "A" Class**
5. Period of Completion : **18 (Eighteen) Calendar Months**
6. Other details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E., R.W.Circle, Keonjhar	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar	Bridge Online NCB No.361	Dt.16.02.23 at 11:00 A.M.	Dt.02.03.23 up to 5:00 P.M.	Dt.01.03.23 up to 5:00 P.M.	Dt.03.03.23 at 11:00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

● Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**

Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Keonjhar.

O-1800 : OIPR-25177/11/0039/2223

Public Works Department
Executive Engineer,
Chikkaballapura Division, Chikkaballapura.

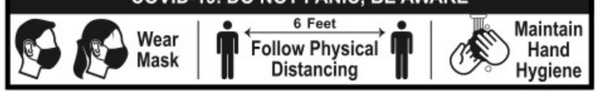
Invitation for Short-Term Tender (I.F.T.) No.: 53/2022-23, Date: 06.02.2023

(For Building Works – As per Standard Bidding Document K.W. – 4 in two cover system)

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000, the Undersigned invites Tenders in two cover system through e-procurement portal from eligible Contractors registered in PWD. Those interested in participating in the tender can submit the tenders from **06.02.2023 to 21.02.2023 up to 4.00 pm. (1)** Last date for objections-doubts and clarifications: **14.02.2023 (at 3.00 pm during office hours). (2)** Last date for submission of filled tenders: **21.02.2023 (up to 4.00 pm). (3)** Date of opening Technical Bid: **23.02.2023 (at 4.30 PM). (4)** Financial Bid will be opened after approval of Technical Bid. For more information visit website **www.kpwd.gov.in** or contact this office during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
P.W.D. Chikkaballapura Division, Chikkaballapura.
DIPR/Chikkaballapura/R.O. No.497/MCA/2022-23

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE



KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, No.1 T.R.Division, Munirabad.

No. EE/KNNL/No.1 T R Dvn/Mrb/ABLIS-Add/2022-23/2889 Date:31.01.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Only through e-procurement system) (Two Cover)

Tenders in Electronic mode on **"PERCENTAGE BASIS"** are invited on behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore, by the Executive Engineer, KNNL, No-1 T R Division, Munirabad, Koppal District., in **Two cover system** (cover I and cover II), under H/A 4701 Headworks Sub Division, Munirabad as per KW-4 conditions for the work **Network for Additional Command Area** of Alwandi Betageri LIS from the registered in the KPWD Class-II and above Contractors. The amount put tender of the works **Rs. 11.16 Crores** for the work. The Pre bid meeting at Chief Engineer, KNNL, ICZ Munirabd office, is on **14.02.2023 at 11.00 A.M.** Last date for submission of tender documents upto **20.02.2023 at 4.00 P.M** from web site (https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in)& Date of opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I) on **21.02.2023 at 4.30 P.M** For more information visit at undersigned in all working days during office hours on telephone No.**08539-270306/ 08539-270026,** and at email: trdmrb@gmail.com

Sd/- **Executive Engineer**
KNNL No.1 T.R.Division,
Munirabad

DIPR/KOPPAL/644/2022-23/DESHPANDE PUBLICITY

CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Tamil Nadu)
METROS, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai - 600 035.

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Contract Name	Selection of Consultant for Preparation of Feasibility Study for Introduction of Air-conditioned Coaches in Chennai Suburban line [Chennai Beach – Tambaram – Chengalpattu]
Contract No.	**CMRL/PLNG/631/1/2022- DFR Study for Introduction of AC coaches in Chennai Suburban line**

CMRL invites tender for Proposal – **"Selection of Consultant for Preparation of Feasibility Study for Introduction of Air-conditioned Coaches in Chennai Suburban line [Chennai Beach – Tambaram – Chengalpattu]"**

Tender Documents can be downloaded from e-procurement website : E-Tender **Publication**

date: 11-02-2023, Last date of bid-submission: 04-03-2023 (16:00 Hrs.)

For complete details, please visit e-procurement website: **http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.**

Any Corrigendum/Addendum to this publication, if any, would appear only on above mentioned website and will not be published in newspapers.

Tender inviting Authority :
Chief General Manager (P&BD), Chennai Metro Rail Limited, (CMRL), METROS, No.327, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai 600035.
www.chennaimetrorail.org / E-mail: krishnan.rm@cmrl.in

Chief General Manger (P&BD)
Chennai Metro Rail Limited

DIPR/873/TENDER/2023

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

Shivamogga City Corporation, Shivamogga
Ph : 08182-226565 Email: itstaff_ulb_shimoga1@yahoo.com

ನಂ. ಶಿಮನಪಾಶಿ:ಆವಿ:ಟಿಆರ್:92/2022–23 **Date : 08.02.2023**

Tender Notification (Through e-procurement)

Tenders are invited in Two-cover system through e-procurement portal as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Rules 1999-2000 and Act 2000 and Standard Tender Document procedure to provide the following services and vehicles/machineries in Shivamogga City Corporation limits. The bidders who are interested in participating through e-procurement tender can obtain the details in website **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

1. Tender documents are available in e-procurement portal from **09.02.2023 to 24.02.2023 upto 5.00 PM.**

2. Last date for submission of tender through e-procurement portal : **24.02.2023.**

3. Date of opening of tender through e-procurement : As per e-portal.

4. More details can be had from e-portal and other details from this office during office hours.

Sl. No.**1)** Details : **Supply of 4 CUM capacity 01 no of Dumper placer (with 2 nos containers) with 2 Nos additional containers for Shivamogga City Corporation.** Approximate amount (Rs in lakhs) **42.00**, EMD (in Rs) **1,05,000**, **2) Supply and Installation of Automatic organic waste converter unit of 1 TPD Capacity to treat wet waste generated in the limits of City Corporation Shivamogga** Approximate amount (Rs in lakhs) **49.90**, EMD (in Rs) **1,25,000**, Grants : Corporation's General Grants.

Note: Any changes or corrigendum will be notified in e-portal only.

Sd/-
Asst. Executive Engineer, (Environment)
Shivamogga City Corporation, Shivamogga.

DIPR/SMG/No.107/ZENKAR/2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF KARANATAKA
KALYAN KARNATAKA REGION DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Opp. Aiwan-E-Shahi, Kalaburagi-585102, Karnataka
Phone No: 08472-256767, Fax No: 08472-227527 Website : hkadbgulb@gmail.com

No. KKRDB/TECH/254/2022-23 Date: 08.02.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(e-Procurement System)

The Secretary, KKRDB, Kalaburagi hereby invites Bids for Arranging serial lights and focus lights at various locations of Kalaburagi city such as Statues , Govt. buildings, Historic Monuments, Road side trees and Arranging Temporary power supply at University Campus for 200KVA load FOR THE HISTORIC EVENT OF KALYAN KARNATAKA UTSAV TO BE ORGANIZED ON 24, 25 AND 26.02.2023 at GUG campus Kalaburagi .Through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka, Firms willing to participate in this tender shall necessarily register themselves with above mentioned e-procurement portal.

The tender document with detailed conditions can be obtained through web site **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** and should be submitted through e-procurement system only. **EMD is Rs.73,000/-**

Event & Date

1) Date of publishing the RFP Document : **08.02.2023,** 2) Last date and time for submission of Proposal (Proposal Due Date) : **15.02.2023 upto 17:30 hrs**, 3) Date and time for opening of Technical Proposal : **16.02.2023 at 17:31 hrs,** 4) Date and time for opening of Financial Proposal : **17.02.2023 at 11:00 hrs**

Sd/- Deputy Secretary
Kalyan Karnataka Region Development Board Kalaburagi

DIP/Kalaburagi/1267/MC&A/2022-23

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II, BENGALURU (DRT-II).
(B.S.N.L Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.
ORIGINAL APPLICATION. NO. 393/2022.

Punjab National Bank Sastra Division, Bengaluru
...Applicant
/VS/
Smt. K. R. Uma Devi and Others
...Defendants

SUMMONS TO THIRD DEFENDANT UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION.

To Defendant No.3
Mrs. B. Vedavathi,
Daughter of Late P.S. Basavarajaiah
No. 170/5, Vinayaka Nagar, Ganeshanagudi, Sodnekoppa Road, Nelamangala - 562 123.

Whereas, the Applicant Bank has instituted an Original Application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993, against you for recovery of sum of **Rs. 31,27,219-00(Rs. Thirty One Lakh Twenty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Nineteen Only)** with current & future interest at 13.75% annum and cost thereon and other relief/reliefs.

You are required to show cause on 11-04-2023 at 11.00 a.m, in person or by a pleader/advocate duly instucted as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in the event of default, the original application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of Tribunal, this **9th day of January 2023.**

Sd/-
The Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal - II, Bangaluru-560 001.

Advocate for Applicant Bank:
M. K. Venkatramana, Advocate
G-104, J.C. Complex Annexe,
No. 186/20, Sirur park Road,
Sheshadirpuram,
Bangaluru-560 020.

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - I, BENGALURU (DRT-I).
(B.S.N.L Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.
ORIGINAL APPLICATION. NO. 467/2022.

Punjab National Bank Sastra Division, Bengaluru
...Applicant
/VS/
Mr. R. Suresh
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION.

To
Mr. R. Suresh,
Son of Chandrashekar Rathanahalli, No. 41, Sushilamma Nilaya, C S I Hospital Road, Marapannahalli Village, Kethanahalli Post - 562101, Chikkaballapur.

Whereas, the Applicant Bank has instituted an Original Application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993, against you for recovery of debts of **Rs. 66,91,366-00(Rs Sixty Six Lakh Ninety One Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Six Only)** with current & future interest and cost thereon and other relief/reliefs.

You are required to show cause on 19-04-2023 at 11.00 a.m, in person or by a pleader/advocate duly instucted as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in the event of default, the original application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of Tribunal, this **7th day of February 2023.**

Sd/-
The Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal - I, Bangaluru-560 001.

Advocate for Applicant Bank:
M. K. Venkatramana, Advocate
G-104, J.C. Complex Annexe,
No. 186/20, Sirur park Road,
Sheshadirpuram,
Bangaluru-560 020.

Zilla Panchayat, Chikkaballapura
Office of the District Officer,
Dept.of Backward Classes Welfare,
Chikkaballapur Dist., Chikkaballapur
District Administration Building, SB-4, 2nd Floor, Sidlaghatta Road, Chikkaballapur Ph: 08156-277053,
E-mail: dobcmchikkaballapura@gmail.com

No.: DBCM/Chipur/FS/CR-14/2016-17 Date: 07.12.2018

Tender Notification

Tender is invited separately Taluk wise through e-procurement for supply of Food, Vegetables & other items and Vegetable items to Student Hostels of Backward Classes Welfare Department and Minorities Welfare Department of Bagepalli, Chikkaballapura, Chintamani, Gowribidanuru, Gudibande and Shidlaghatta Taluks of Chikkaballapura District for the year 2023-24. Period fixed for the said Tender process is as below.

(1) Period fixed for submission of tender through e-procurement: **02.02.2023 to 03.03.2023, 5.00 PM.**
(2) Date of Pre-bid Meeting: **09.02.2023 at 11.00 AM.**
(3) Date for submission of Sample: **03.03.2023, 5.00 PM.**
(4) Date of opening Technical Tender: **04.03.2023, 5.30 PM.**
(5) Date of opening Financial Tender: **09.03.2023, 11.00 AM.**

Eligible Tenderers can participate in the Tender through e-procurement. For further information visit website **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** (Ph. No. 080-25501216, 080-25501227) and also can be obtained from office of Backward Classes Welfare Department, District Administration Bhavan, #S.B.4, 2nd Floor, Shidlaghatta Road, Chikkaballapura District. (Office Ph. No.: 08156-277053).

Sd/- Dist. Officer, Dept. of Backward Classes Welfare, Chikkaballapur Dist., Chikkaballapur
DIPR/Chikkaballapura/R.O. No.493/MCA/2022-23

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE

Work on Old Airport Road signal-free corridor drags on

Work on 17.5-km stretch, which connects ASC Centre with Hope Farm Junction, was initiated when Siddaramaiah was CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The much awaited Suranjan Das Road underpass on Old Airport Road, under construction for several years now missing many deadlines, was finally formally inaugurated by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday.

The underpass is the second, after the one at Kundalahalli Junction, to be thrown open to the public as part of the Old Airport Road signal-free corridor, a project that seems cursed and has missed several deadlines. While the two underpasses have been opened after at least a delay of three years, work on another underpass at Wind Tunnel junction is stuck.

Work on the 17.5-km signal-free corridor worth ₹149 crore, which connects the ASC Centre with Hope Farm Junction via three underpasses, was first initiated when Siddaramaiah was the Chief Minister and is yet to be completed.

At the Wind Tunnel junction, land belonging to National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has already been acquired. However, the Bengaluru Traffic Police have asked for an alternate route to the key stretch of road to start work. "Since there is a lot of VIP movement from HAL Airport, the road stretch at Wind Tunnel Junction is very key. Whitetopping work is under way on Old Madras Road. Once that is completed, we will identify an alternate route to avoid Wind Tunnel Junction, following which construction work can begin in full swing," said M.A. Saleem, Special Commissioner, Traffic.

Meanwhile, the Kundalahalli underp ass that was opened last year had caved in during the rains in October exposing the chinks in infrastructure. Motorists complain that the underpass has turned out to be a bottleneck and is not serving its purpose to reduce travel time.

Pavan Rao, a commuter, said that the delay in work is contributing to traffic congestion and chaos on the stretch. "If there is no traffic, one can cover a 10-km stretch in six minutes. But a 10-km stretch on the signal-free corridor takes about 1.5 hours," he said.

Meanwhile, traffic expert M.N. Srihari said that since there were many crossroads feeding traffic onto the Old Airport Road, it was not suited to be converted into a signal-free stretch. He suggested that the underpasses should be made one-way providing an alternate route for traffic in the opposite direction.

The newly constructed underpass near HAL in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

11 flyovers approved in a year: Bommai

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who also holds charge of Bengaluru development, said that his government had made substantial investment in the city's infrastructure and approved 11 flyovers for the city in 2022-23 alone. "This is the highest number of flyovers any government has approved in a single year for the city. If we need to see real change, we need investment on scale, which we are doing," he said.

He was speaking after inaugurating the Suranjan Das Road underpass on Old Airport Road on Thursday.

"The Prime Minister recently laid the foundation stone for the suburban rail project and work has begun. Work is under way on Satellite Township Ring Road and Phase II and III of Namma Metro. We need to take a call on the Peripheral Ring Road and we will soon start work on that. Once all the projects are completed, we will be able to decongest the city to some extent," he said.

NLSIU quota row: State's plea to come up before SC today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government's appeal in the Supreme Court against the manner in which the National Law School of India University (NLSIU) has provided reservation to Kannadigas is coming up on Friday, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister J.C. Madhuswamy said on Thursday.

"The NLSIU authorities are considering a Kannadiga getting into the university in the merit list also under the 25% reservation for Kannadigas," Mr. Madhuswamy told reporters. He argued that the reservation legislation was clear and the 25% reservation was outside the merit list. "Reservation will help those who have studied in Karnataka for 10 years," he said.

The Minister said that though the High Court had struck down reservation, the State government had gone on an appeal to the Supreme Court. "In the meantime, the NLSIU Vice-Chancellor met us and assured the implementation of 25% reservation. Now, we are told that they have implemented horizontal reservation," he said.

The Law Minister also said, "Such reservation exists in several States and we are confident of the court ruling in our favour."

INBRIEF

City-based start-up wins award at Energy Week

City-based start-up Beta Tank Robotics Pvt. Ltd., which is developing specialised hydraulic robots for the petroleum industry, has won the best start-up award at the India Energy Week 2023, which was held in Bengaluru last week.

The robot can operate in oil tanks in petroleum refineries, and thereby eliminate risks to human beings. It was incubated at IIT Guwahati, and the project was funded by State-owned Oil India Ltd. The specialised robot can go from one taker to another, and it does the job similar to a vacuum cleaner.

The robot at present is undergoing safety assessment as there are very stringent standards set by the oil industry.

Two arrested on charge of selling Alexandrine parakeets

The mobile squad of the CID Forest Cell, Bengaluru, on Thursday arrested two youth selling Alexandrine parakeets on the highway in the outskirts of the city.

The accused, Rakesh Nagraj, 19, and Raghunandan Ramachandra, 22, from Lakshmipura, were caught red-handed while they were waiting for customers to sell the parakeets that were kept in a box placed on a motorcycle on Kunigal Bypass road in Nelamangala. The officials suspect that the accused are part of the inter-State wildlife smuggling racket linked to Tamil Nadu.

In another case, the squad arrested a gang of four from Rajasthan who were trying to sell erotic artwork, and jewellery made of ivory were seized from them.

Lookout notice against actor

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A lookout notice has been issued against Kannada actor Abhinaya, her mother, and brother, who are on the run after being convicted in a 20-year-old dowry harassment case filed by the actor's sister-in-law Lakshmi Devi.

The 8th ACMM court had convicted Jayamma, 74, Cheluvaraju, 54, and Abhinaya, 52, and sentenced them to two years of imprisonment and fine. The accused challenged the order in fast track session court and got acquitted. However, the complainant challenged the acquittal in the High Court, which upheld the lower court order. Since then, the accused have been absconding.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, FEB. 10		
RISE	06:44	SET 18:24
RISE	22:06	SET 09:38
SATURDAY, FEB. 11		
RISE	06:44	SET 18:24
RISE	22:54	SET 10:14
SUNDAY, FEB. 12		
RISE	06:43	SET 18:24
RISE	23:46	SET 10:52

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	22
Mysuru	32	15
Bengaluru	31	17

Bengaluru Today
31°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be slight warm. Night will be slight cool with haze and mist.

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THE HINDU
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G-20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group meet gets under way

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The first meeting of the Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) under the G-20 Sherpa Track was held on Thursday.

Chandra Prakash Goyal, Director-General, Forests, and Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), emphasised on how G-20 has played a vital role over the years, in dealing with economic, financial, social, and environmental issues.

He also highlighted that India's Presidency will propagate the cause through collective leadership to take forward the commendable initiatives from the past G-20 Presidencies to create tangible impact.

Chandra Prakash Goyal, Director-General, Forests, and Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, hosting the side event of the 1st Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group meet in Bengaluru on Thursday. ANI

A.S Rawat, Director General, Indian Council for Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), discussed the global perspectives on the eco-restoration aspects specifically with respect to mining and forest fire affected areas.

During this session, representatives from G-20 countries shared their experiences and best practices on Restoration of Mining and Forest Fire Affected Areas. Ruchi Pant from UNDP shared her experiences on conservation and preservation of ecosystems at mining-affected areas, specifically highlighting the work done in India. Over the next two days, G-20 members will further deliberate on three key priorities identified by ECSWG.

In the second half of the day, the delegates were taken for site visits to the Kalkere Arboretum and Bannerghatta Biological Park at Bengaluru. At Kalkere Arboretum, the delegates got an opportunity to experience the four predominant forest ecosystems of Karnataka.

The delegates were shown forest restoration models adopted in these ecosystems and the successful revival of faunal biodiversity in these areas.

Mr. Goyal said that the participants will be shown the successful programmes that have been undertaken by the Karnataka Forest Department and also highlight the States successful ecotourism model.

Forest fire management to come under NDMA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Forest fire management in the country will come under the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), said Chandra Prakash Goyal, Director-General, Forests, and Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, on Thursday.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the G-20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group meeting, Mr. Goyal said the NDMA was developing a national disaster management task force and that the authority would also take up forest fires as national disaster.

Tech innovations

He said the departments concerned were using traditional practices in the past while dealing with forest fires, but had now adapted technological innovations while dealing with forest fire management.

"Initially, we used to use only traditional practices to manage forest fires. Of late, we are focusing on technological improvement. In fact, India has the most advanced alert system in the entire world that is developed by the Forest Survey of India. Alerts are coming through satellites even from the remotest corner of the country even if there is a small fire," he said.

Work appreciated

He added that the work done by the Forest Survey of India was appreciated by other G-20 countries.

"In India, only 3% of forest fires are reported which is very less But still we should avoid them also," he added.

Body camera footage disproves allegations of harassment made by couple, claim police

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A couple who were caught riding without helmets and having pending fines, reportedly created a ruckus alleging harassment by Jayanagar traffic policemen, but the body cameras the personnel wore reportedly saved the two policemen from an inquiry.

The incident occurred two days ago when the couple identified as Mallesh and Mangala were confronted by the police. While the police found a total of ₹5,000 pending fines against the vehicle number and insisted they pay up at least a part of it to take their vehicle, the couple refused and cited a medical emergency.

The couple's son Rajesh, who rushed to the spot, raised a complaint on the Bengaluru Traffic Police social media handles and even called media persons, before whom, the couple accused the policemen of harassing them. They alleged that Mangala's blood pressure fluctuated and she collapsed because of the harassment.

Kuldeep Kumar R. Jain, DCP, Traffic West, ordered a probe. The Jayanagar traffic police called Rajesh and recorded his statement and summoned the ASI, Shivaswamy, and his colleague who have been accused of the harassment.

The police checked their body cameras and said the footage showed that the allegations made by the couple were baseless. The couple also failed to produce medical records to show their health was affected due to harassment.

"The body cameras worn by the traffic police are always switched on to ensure transparency," Mr. Jain said.

Research project on factors contributing to brain ageing launched at NIMHANS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 'India ENIGMA Initiative for Global Ageing and Mental Health' research project was launched at NIMHANS on Thursday. The five-year project is aimed at bridging the knowledge gap around the various factors influencing the acceleration in brain ageing.

To be conducted at NIMHANS, the study will involve 400 participants (including healthy older adults and persons with memory impairment) who can volunteer to participate. This study includes comprehensive assessment of risk and protective factors through clinical interview, memory and cognitive tests, blood investigations and brain imaging (MRI scan). Researchers from NIMHANS and University of Southern California (USC), who have joined hands for this project, will follow up with the participants over two years to understand the contribution of these factors to the risk of developing dementia. Speaking at the launch, NIMHANS director Pratima Murthy said the study will enhance the capacity of NIMHANS researchers for advanced research in this field with focus on brain imaging and other biomarkers. "In collaboration with USC, this study will help in augmenting the cutting edge research output of global standards from NIMHANS," she said.

The study will involve 400 participants (including healthy older adults and persons with memory impairment) who can volunteer to participate

"NIMHANS is also involved in studying Neurophysiological and Neurochemical biomarkers for Alzheimer's disease. The facility of Brain Bank, PET MRI, MEG etc in NIMHANS can help in enhancing the research in this field in future," she said.

John P. John, professor in the Department of Psychiatry NIMHANS, Faculty in charge - Multimodal Brain Image Analysis Laboratory (MBIAL) and the Principal Investigator of the India ENIGMA initiative, said major medical breakthroughs have occurred in the past because of the generosity of participating volunteers. "We hope that this study can generate critical insights for planning preventive and treatment strategies for dementia in the Indian population," he said.

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The syllabus charade

Students on edge as schools affiliated to State board teach central curriculum

Though phenomenon of schools claiming central board affiliation is not new, education department's recent decision to hold public exam for Classes V and VIII has brought the issue to centre stage

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) has, over the last fortnight, been cracking down on managements running "central syllabus" schools with no requisite affiliation while giving the impression to parents that they are accredited to the Central Board of Secondary Education or the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations.

DSEL has served notices to more than 700 such schools, over 600 in Bengaluru alone. However, people in the know say this has been going on for years and reflects the government's failure to regulate the ecosystem.

Most of these schools, while they have an affiliation to only the State board, say they are teaching either ICSE or CBSE syllabus, violating the norms of the Karnataka Education Act, 1983, and the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009.

Huge demand for Central Board schools

With statistics showing that students who study the central syllabus have an edge in professional course entrance examinations, there has been a huge demand for schools teaching the central syllabus. This has led to many educational institutions making false claims that they are affiliated to either of the central boards and, in turn, charge a fee severalfold more than what State syllabus schools generally charge.

In the past few weeks, parents of children studying in one such school protested, as the school claiming to be affiliated to CBSE and teaching that syllabus till now suddenly distributed State syllabus textbooks. The protests soon spread to several branches of the school chain in the city and led to an FIR against one of them in Nagarbhavi.

The school, in a statement, said that while nine of their branches already had CBSE affiliation, others were "in the process" of getting it. This process generally takes 3-4 years, which they claim was further delayed due to the pandemic. These protests opened a can of worms.

Public exams exposed it all

The phenomenon of schools claiming central board affiliation is not new. It has been happening right under the nose of DSEL for many years. But what set the cat among the pigeons was the department's recent decision to hold a public examination for Classes V and VIII.

Since there are no public exams till Class X in central syllabus schools, educational institutions have ample time to get affiliated to a central board long after they have set up the school. Till then, many schools remain affiliated to the State board while teaching the Central syllabus.

However, with the introduction of public exams for Classes V and VIII from this academic year in State-affiliated schools, they were forced to teach students State syllabus textbooks, alerting parents to what they were unaware of.

Check for irregularities

Meanwhile, DSEL had formed a three-member committee led by the Block Education Officer (BEO) in each taluk to survey schools to check for irregularities. Post survey, DSEL issued notices to over 700 schools across the State alleging that while they had affiliation to the State board, they were falsely claiming affiliation to a central board and teaching that syllabus.

> Despite repeated appeals, there has been no action against schools that falsely claim and run the central syllabus.
>
> **SHASHIKUMAR D.,** General Secretary, KAMS

PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE

However, a section of private school managements said the survey was an "offensive" launched by the department against them in response to allegations of corruption they had levelled against them a few months ago.

How the system works

Neither the CBSE nor the CISCE provides affiliation to a newly opened school. They must first obtain a State board affiliation for Classes I to V and run the school for five years, following which they can take a no-objection certificate (NOC) from the State government to get an affiliation for a central board.

After applying, the central board issues a provisional certificate only to indicate that the said school is "under consideration" for affiliation. Then, based on inspection reports, the board provides a permanent affiliation. The process takes around five years. If the board denies the affiliation, it will continue to function as a State board school.

Schools' defence

However, without following this procedure and waiting for an affiliation, many schools are taking in students claiming to have already been affiliated to either of the central boards. If parents seek any clarification, these schools usually show the provisional certificate issued by the concerned central board or the NOC issued by the State government.

Some have also cited mention of their school as a central board-affiliated one on the Government of India's Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) portal, which is only a self-declaration.

Right now, the pressure on students studying in these schools is a matter of significant concern, especially in Classes V and VIII this year. These students, who were being taught NCERT textbooks, are now given State syllabus textbooks to prepare for public exams, putting them under immense stress and confusion. Neither the school managements nor DSEL has yet to devise any plan on how these children will cope with it.

Lax enforcement and corruption

Though DSEL has powers to withdraw the NOC issued to a school and impose a hefty penalty for violation of rules, there has not been any such action.

Shashikumar D., General Secretary for Associated Managements of English Medium Schools in Karnataka (KAMS), said that despite their repeated appeals, there had been no action against schools that falsely claim and run central syllabus. Alleging wide-scale collusion between school managements and officials, he said BEO reports on school inspections should not be trusted blindly, and DSEL has to make them public to allow scrutiny and call for objections, he added.

Minister promises transparency

However, Minister for the Department of School Education and Literacy, B.C. Nagesh assured stringent action against errant schools as per law. "We are holding public exams for Classes V and VIII to prevent such irregularities. We are also planning to launch a separate portal to disclose all the unauthorised and fraudulent schools' names and their addresses," he said.

Lack of means to verify schools' affiliation worries parents

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

Before admitting their children to schools, parents usually run a background check on the institutions. They ask other parents for recommendations, check out the schools' websites, and have conversations with the schools' authorities to get a clearer understanding.

In recent days, as many parents found out, their research was not enough, as the government sent notices to hundreds of schools for allegedly falsely claiming to have central board affiliations while they only had State board affiliations.

The lack of means to verify a school's affiliation has baffled parents. "Most of us go by what they put up in front of the school," said Shwetha P., a parent from Sunkadakatte.

"If it says Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) or Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE), that is what we believe. As parents, quality education is important for us, and when a school has multiple branches and hundreds of students, we assume that it must be good. The recent turn of events has left us all paranoid, but we are also left wondering how to verify the affiliations of schools," she said.

Display affiliation code

Further, parents want schools to display their affiliation codes on their boards and websites clearly. "Despite a rule that mandates display of the affiliation code on the boards, that's not happening," said B.N. Yogananda, President, Karnataka Private School College Parent Associations coordination committee.

"The parents have no other options to check the status. When a new school is opened, they should run it for five years under State Board. These days, based on certificates obtained by older branches of their schools, they claim central board affiliation for the new branches, too," he said.

The parents also point towards a possible involvement of officials of the education department in letting schools with false affiliations run. "Without the cooperation of Block Education Officers (BEO) and Deputy Director of Public Instruction (DDPI), and other officials, how could such schools have run for so long? There is a rule that all BEOs should look for and publish a list of such illegal or unregistered schools on the website, but they have not done that," Mr. Yogananda said.

There is also the worry of students missing out on one academic year if the government shuts down such schools. Parents have started taking transfer certificates but have no idea about the next step.

"To save the future of students who are already enrolled or studying in such schools, appropriate steps should be taken by the government to continue the education of those students," said Ajay Kamath, State secretary, All India Democratic Students' Organization (AIDSO).

Another question raised by the parents was why the government or the Education Minister had not issued any clarification in this regard. "More than the money paid, what matters is the future of our children. Would years of their education be discarded, or would they be allowed to continue from where they left off? Would it be considered State board or central board education? There is a lot of confusion," said Manasa (name changed), a parent.

Awareness campaigns

Parents said that the Department of Public Instruction should start public campaigns and put out a list of schools that are unregistered or have false affiliations. "The DDPIs and BEOs should list out schools in their limits and thereby help parents," said Mr. Yogananda. The association also demanded that the fee money should be recovered from such schools and paid back to the parents.

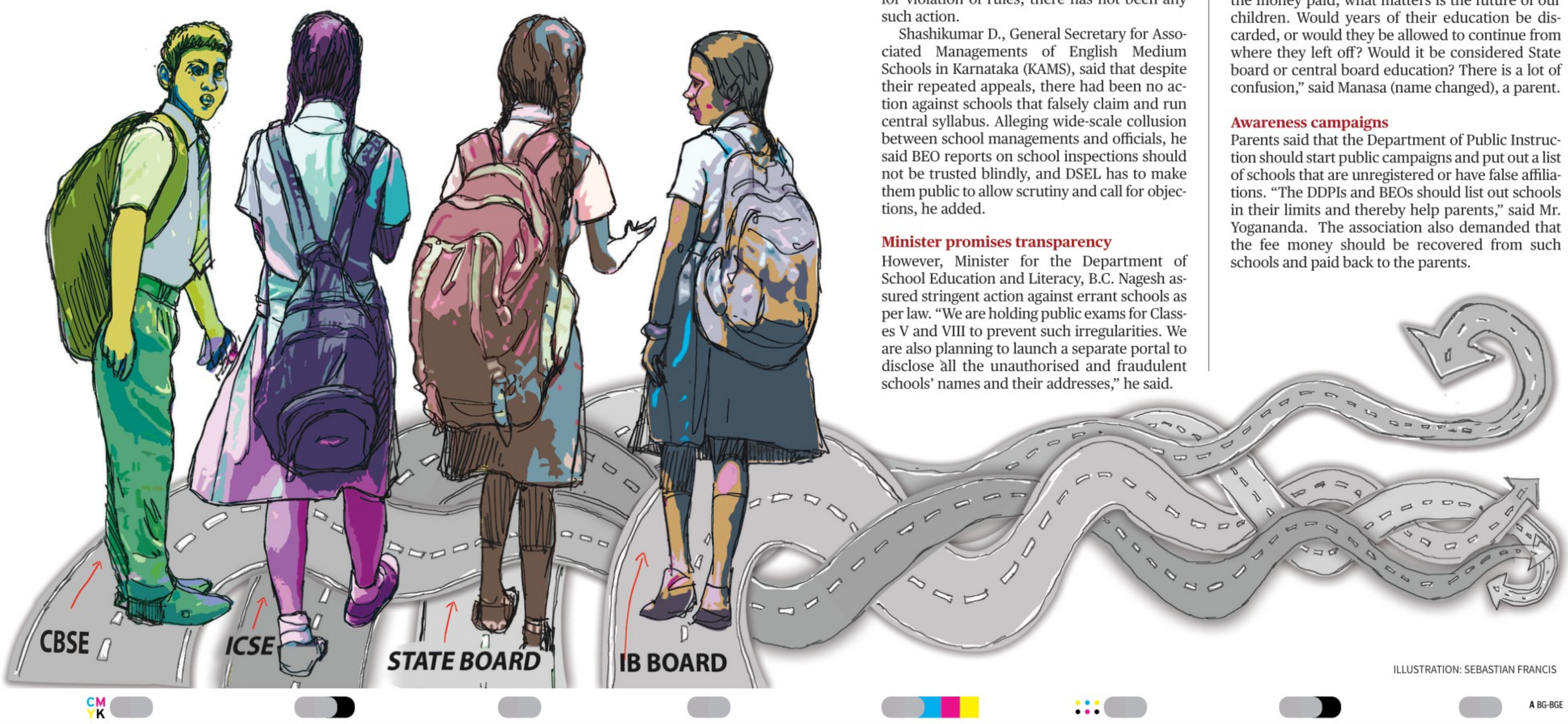


ILLUSTRATION: SEBASTIAN FRANCIS

Place value

Ahead of IIHS's Urban Lens film festival, directors Mahesh Narayanan and Wanphrang Diengdoh discuss the importance of geography in films

Praveen Sudevan
praveen.s@thehindu.co.in

In Mahesh Narayanan's *Malik*, the sea is integral to the film's narrative. Through its protagonist, Ahammadali Sulaiman (played by Fahadh Faasil), a migrant, we delve into the story of the evolving relationships between the local communities in the adjacent coastal villages of Ramadapally and Edavathura.

"All my stories come from my surroundings, not from any kind of literary work. I couldn't have set *Malik* anywhere other than a seaside village because the sea is an integral part of the conflict of that story. The place is an important part of my films," says Mahesh.

His most recent film, *Ariyippu*, is no different. It is about an immigrant Malayali couple working in a medical glove manufacturing factory in Noida. In this film, too, the importance of geography is apparent. We see how language, culture, terrain, and weather can alienate people.

The film is also set during the peak phase of COVID-19, which made it an apt choice for the opening of the ninth edition of IIHS's Urban Lens film festival.

After two years of being online, the festival is back to physical screenings this year. Apart from *Ariyippu*, the other films at the festival include Shaunak Sen's Oscar-nominated documentary

Studying spaces (Clockwise from left) A still from *Ariyippu;* Mahesh Narayanan; and Wanphrang Diengdoh. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

feature *All That Breathes*, Wanphrang Diengdoh's *Lorni - The Flaneur*, Rebana Liz John's *Ladies Only*, and Aboozar Amini's *Kabul, City in the Wind*.

Explaining the choice of films for this year, Subasri Krishnan, the curator of the festival and a filmmaker herself, says, "We went for films, both fiction and non-fiction, that deal with the condition of being in a city either physically or tangentially or metaphorically. Since we live in a post-COVID world, we also picked films that represented the pandemic experience in some way or the other."

City and cinema

According to Subasri, city and cinema influence each other. "How the city is represented in cinema finds a way into the cultural lives of people, individually and collectively. The reason we started the festival is to see how a city has found a voice in films through different artists and filmmakers."

Wanphrang's *Lorni - The Flaneur*, for instance, is set in Shillong. The protagonist of his film, Shem (Adil Hussain), navigates the narrow streets and dark alleys as he embarks on an emotional and mental journey reflective of his reality and that of the city. Wanphrang, who lives between Shillong and Brighton in the UK, says, "My city has not only been an integral part of my films but all of my art. Sometimes the stories that need to be told choose you. A landscape nurtures a certain kind of storytelling, a legend, a myth or even a culture." He sees urban spaces as a melting pot of people of diverse identities coming together, clashing and interacting with each other. "These spaces challenge the notion of a glorious past. This is very important, taking into consideration what India is reimagining itself to be – this homogenised, one-nation identity based on a particular faith."

Experiential knowledge

Since cinema can shape the way people think and chronicles the social and cultural history of a place, Wanphrang reckons filmmakers should be responsible when they depict a place and its people.

"A lot of mainstream Hindi films that have been set in the Northeast fail because they don't understand the character of the place," he says, "The place is always a character as opposed to a mere backdrop. You cannot reinvent a place unless you have had experiential knowledge of that place."

Mainstream Hindi cinema, he says, fails to understand the plurality of the Northeast. "You can't represent Northeast by throwing in a few characters whose faces look a certain way." Mahesh, meanwhile, believes that cinema has no boundaries. A filmmaker from Kerala can narrate a story happening in Noida. However, he says, they need to understand the place and the people they are depicting in the film. In *Ariyippu*, for instance, he was familiar with his central characters but to acquaint himself with the place, he spent over two months with the migrant factory workers in Noida.

Urban Lens film festival is on from February 16 to 19 at Goethe-Institu/Max Mueller Bhavan and IIHS, Bengaluru City Campus. Entry is free. Visit urbanlens.iihs.co. in for registration and details

> ***The place is always a character as opposed to a mere backdrop. You cannot reinvent a place unless you have had experiential knowledge of that place***
>
> **WANPHRANG DIENGDOH**

From Page One

Alimony: HC sets timeline for FCs

"Merely, because the provision directs disposal of the application as far as possible within 60 days, it cannot be stretched by the courts to an extent that the wife would not see the amount of maintenance for ages," the High Court observed.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna made these observations while noticing that an FC in Bengaluru city had granted interim compensation in August, 2022, on an application filed by the wife in February, 2020, and thereby taking 30 months to decide the application.

The High Court said that the notice on the application seeking interim compensation under Section 24 of the Act should be issued immediately and notice through e-mail/WhatsApp also be valid service in the eyes of the law.

Also, the FCs should grant two months to the husband to file objections to the application filed by the wife, who also should be given two months to file statements of assets and liabilities in support of the claim, the High Court said.

Later, the FC should consider the contentions of the parties, hear them and pass appropriate orders, within four months thereafter, if not earlier, the High Court said while making it clear that the FC should refrain from granting unnecessary adjournments. Any delay beyond six months should be only on reasons recorded in writing by the FC in the order that would be passed, the court said.

INBRIEF

BSY reiterates that airport shouldn't be named after him

Though the State government has decided to recommend to the Union government to name the Shivamogga airport after the former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, the veteran leader has reiterated his earlier stand that it should not be done. Earlier, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's announcement that the airport would be named after Mr. Yediyurappa had triggered a controversy with a section of people arguing that the airport could be named after any personality from the district who has made contribution to the State such as poet-laureate Kuvempu. Following this, Mr. Yediyurappa immediately said the airport should not be named after him.

Sexuality minority delegation meets Governor

A delegation of sexuality minority community members met Governor Taawarchand Gehlot on Thursday to urge him to instruct the State and Central governments to respond to their various demands, such as inclusion of transgender persons and sexuality minorities under the Domestic Violence Act.

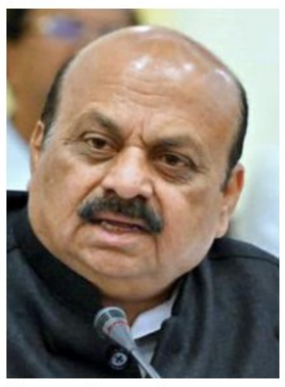
In the memorandum presented to the Governor, the delegation highlighted several other demands, including proper implementation of the State's policy for transgenders, formation of a transgender welfare board, and better access to employment and education.

Hike in SC/ST reservation: Centre to be urged to include law in 9th schedule

State to send a proposal to Centre; government under pressure to do so to give the legislation protection from legal challenge

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a move aimed at silencing Opposition Congress criticism as elections draw near, the State Cabinet on Thursday is learnt to have decided to recommend to the Centre to bring the new legislation enhancing reservation to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under the 9th schedule of the Constitution.


Basavaraj Bommai

The Cabinet that met here decided to send the proposal to the Centre, Chief Minister's Office sources confirmed, adding that the issue would also be placed before the legislature. The legislature session commences on Friday.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, without elaborating on the move, told a gathering at Sri Maharshi Valmiki Jatra Mahotsava in Davangere that the process to bring the legislation under the 9th schedule had commenced. "Social justice cannot be delivered only with lectures. Legal protection has already been given," he said. In Bengaluru, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister J.C. Madhuswamy remained tightlipped during the post-Cabinet meeting press briefing, and said the government would make a statement on the issue in the legislature.

The legislature had passed The Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions and of Appointments or Posts in the Services Under the State) Act, 2022, in the winter session in Belagavi in December. Earlier, following an all-party meet chaired by the Chief Minister in October 2022, the Governor promulgated an Ordinance to increase the reservation for SCs from 15% to 17% and for STs from 3% to 7% that commensurates with their population, based on H.N. Nagmohan Das commission report.

The hike took the reservation matrix in Karnataka to 56%, beyond the 50% cap imposed by the Supreme Court's 1992 order. The OBCs get 32% reservation in the State.

Opposition attack

Despite the law being passed, the Congress had repeatedly attacked the government for not bringing the new law under the 9th schedule to protect it from legal scrutiny, and had termed the move as an eyewash to attract SC/ST votes ahead of elections.

Government sources said the move benefits 103 communities among the SCs and 56 communities among the STs. "The government had to recover lost ground as it is under pressure from Dalit Left groups that are unhappy over lack of internal reservation and Panchamasalis, whose demand for 2A status has not been met. This move could give electoral dividends."

Legislature session from today; thin attendance likely with leaders preoccupied with poll-related work

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With elections to the Karnataka Legislative Assembly fast approaching, the legislature session – the last also of the current Assembly – commencing on Friday is set to record low attendance even though the principal Opposition, the Congress, is expected to raise issues of corruption and governance.

It will be the 15th session of the 15th Legislative Assembly. While the joint legislature session on Friday will be addressed by Governor Taawarchand Gehlot, the State Budget will be presented on February 17 by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who also holds the Finance portfolio. This Budget, expected to be populist, will be the second one to be presented by Mr. Bommai.

All set: Legislative Assembly Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri inspecting the Assembly hall at the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Thursday. K. MURALI KUMAR

All busy with yatras

Most legislators across all parties are in their constituencies preparing for the elections. Opposition Congress and Janata Dal (Secular) leaders are involved in Praja Dhwani Yatre and Pancharatna Rath Yatre, respectively.

Senior Congress leaders, including Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar, are expected to participate only on important days while JD (S) leader and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy will not participate in the session.

Congress leader Priyank Kharge said, "We have little or no expectation from the government and also on the way the Assembly session is conducted."

He said, "BJP legislator Goolihatti Shekar has himself accused the government of ₹22,000 crore irrigation scam. We will raise of issues of corruption, failure to generate employment, crumbling Bengaluru infrastructure, under-utilisation of Budget funds and diversion of funds meant for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes welfare."

JD(S) sources said the party's Deputy Leader in the House Bandeppa Kashempur would lead the party's participation during the session, and issues that were to be raised would be discussed in the legislature party meeting on Friday.

Speaker's appeal

Sensing poor attendance, Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri on Thursday appealed to legislators of all parties to attend the session. Mr. Kageri said that despite the schedule of the session being notified, many members had chalked out their own programmes. He said that during the session, question hour and zero hour discussions would take place for nine days, and 1,300 questions had been received from the members.

The Business Advisory Committee, comprising leaders of all parties, which is set to meet this Friday and next Friday, will decide as to when the session will come to an end, according to Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister J.C. Madhuswamy. He said seven Bills, including ones related to private universities and Kannada development, that were pending in the winter session at Belagavi, would be moved to obtain the approval of the House.

Govt. to be guarantor for ₹13,700 cr. loans to be raised by Escoms

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Cabinet on Thursday provided approval for the State to stand as a guarantor for ₹13,700 crore loans to be raised by power distribution companies.

"The Cabinet has given administrative consent for the power companies to raise ₹13,708 crore. They will decide on the issue of late payment and surcharges," Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister J.C. Madshusawmy said in his post-Cabinet meeting briefing to the media.

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company is planning to raise ₹7,526 crore, the highest among the five power distribution companies, followed by Hubballi Escom – ₹2,528 crore and Gulbarga Escom – ₹2,120 crore. Chamundeshwari Escom and Mangaluru Escom are seeking to raise ₹1,398 and ₹125 crore, respectively.

Tollgate demolition

The Cabinet also ordered an investigation into the demolition of Bengaluru Elevated Tollway's tollgate near Silk Board junction besides depositing ₹54.59 crore in the Supreme Court where an appeal has been filed against a court order.

The Law Minister said members of the lorry association were involved in a wrangle that led to the demolition of the toll gate. "The company has accused that government officials were involved. We will investigate the reason and circumstances that led to the demolition. When the demolition took place, the concessionaire still had time to collect toll," he said, adding that the court's order went in favour of the company which was being questioned in the Supreme Court.

Energy policy

The Cabinet also approved modifications to the energy policy. While it enhanced the area for a MW of power to be generated from solar power from 3.5 acres to 4 acres, it brought down the date of commencement of the project to two years in the installation of wind energy projects. "Both changes were sought by industry representatives," Mr. Madhuswamy said.

It also consented for the Chief Minister to appoint a member for the vacant post in the Karnataka Public Service Commission. Besides, ₹18 crore was approved for enhancing the resolution of satellite data obtained under the GIS programme at the Karnataka Remote Sensing Centre.

MoUs from State industries likely to be signed at Aero India

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bandhan event to be held on the sidelines of Aero India will witness the signing of a substantial number of MoUs, including significant ones from Karnataka industries.

The CEOs of major private defence companies and the CMDs of the DPSUs will participate in the event. Bandhan event is aimed at forging and renewing partnerships between business entities for innovative collaboration and strategic transformation of the defence manufacturing sector in the country. It will provide an ideal platform for the DPSUs, private defence companies and foreign vendors to ink business pacts to enhance defence collaboration and cooperation. It will also strengthen the domestic defence ecosystem and give a major boost to defence manufacturing and exports.

Bandhan will also see signing of agreements by the DRDO, major announcements, and product launches by the private and the public sector.

"These B2B engagements have immense business potential and will go a long way in scaling up the global engagement of Indian defence companies. These MoUs and ToTs will also pave the way for more FDI in defence for enhanced defence manufacturing, including manufacturing in the defence industrial corridors," said the Ministry of Defence.

DRDO products

The DRDO Pavilion at the airshow will showcase over 330 products. There would be flight displays of LCA Tejas, LCA Tejas PV6, NETRA AEW&C and TAPAS UAV. The static display also includes LCA Tejas NP1/NP5 and NETRA AEW&C.

Dept. sets up 30 disaster management teams

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With Aero India all set to commence in Bengaluru on February 13, the Health Department has set up 30 disaster management teams. Each team comprising a specialist doctor, physician, nurse, pharmacist, and assisting staff will be available in an ambulance. According to a press release from the department, 10 disaster management teams will be stationed on site and the rest off-site.

While 45 government and private ambulances will be deployed, a total of 70 doctors, 80 paramedical staff, and 27 assisting staff have been deputed at the venue of the show.

ರಾಯಚೂರು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ RAICHUR UNIVERSITY
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Email:- registrarrur@gmail.com, +918532200972 https://raichuruniversity.ac.in
Sl No: RUR/ADM/T6CALL2/2022-23/ 1814 Date:08.02.2023
CALL-2 SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
((Through E-Procurement System only))
Short term tender is invited from the reputed Companies/ Agencies to Supply Manpower services for Raichur University, Yeragera - 584133. Last date for submission of online tender is Date: 15/02/2023. Tender form fees and EMD are as per e-portal only. For more details, download the information from the website: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in
Note : If any changes in the tender it will be published in e-tender portalonly
DIP/Raichur/601/K.S.M.A & C/2022-23
Sd/- Registrar Raichur University, Raichur

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office, "MESCOM BHAVANA", Bejai, Mangaluru - 575 004
Ph: 0824-2885795 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425
No. MESCOM/PROC/PURC/27/2023-PROC Date : 09.02.2023
TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)
MESCOM invites tender for Manufacture & Supply of following material:

Tender No.	Name of the Material proposed for Procurement	Quantity
MESCOM/2022-23/IND924	Double Pole Structures - MS	1000 Sets

The interested eligible bidders may log on to : www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 10.02.2023.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.) (Proc.), Corporate Office
For Power Related Complaints & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, SPECIAL DIVISION, HUNSUR
PWD Special Division, Hunsur.
IFT No.20/2022-23 Date:06.02.2023
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement)
On behalf of Governor of Karnataka the undersigned has invited itemised tender for building works related to Hunsur Division as per terms and conditions of "standard tender documents KW-4" from the eligible registered Class-1 Contractors under PWD through e-procurement. Tender documents is downloaded from the e-procurement website date:07-02-2023 And Last date for submission of filled tender documents is date: 21-02-2023 upto 16.00 Hours. Amount put to tender Rs.1486.82 Lakhs and EMD amount of Rs.15.00 Lakhs, Period for completion of works (including monsoon): 11-Months. For more details visit the undersigned during office working hours.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, Special Division, Hunsur
DIPR/MYS/KAVITA/995/2022-23

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY

A NATARAJAN
02.11.1929 - 03.02.2023
Deeply Mourned by
Wife - Lakshmi Natarajan
Daughter - Srividya Natarajan
Sons - Arunachalam Natarajan, Srinivasan Natarajan
Son in law - Madan Rangasamy
D-in-Law : Swarnalatha Arunachalam
Grandchildren's
Aravinda,Arundhadhi,Ashwin & Aaditya
& Host of Relatives
Tenth Day Ceremony-12-02- 2023
Thirteen Day (Subham Rituals)-15-02-2023
Condolence on 97302 55544

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
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INBRIEF

Special team recommends capturing rogue tusker

A special team from Wayanad led by chief forest veterinary surgeon Arun Zakaria will submit its recommendations to capture the rogue tusker 'Arikompan' that has created panic among the residents of Devikulam range near Munnar in Idukki, according to officials. A senior Forest Department official told *The Hindu* that the special team has recommended capturing 'Arikompan' and fixing a radio collar on another rogue tusker "Chakkakompan".

Padmavati Rest House in Tirumala to get facelift

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has decided to give a facelift to the Sri Padmavati Rest House at a cost of ₹3.80 crore. VIPs such as President of India, Prime Minister, Chief Justice of India, Chief Justice of High Courts and top dignitaries, during their visit to the temple town, stay in this rest house. Built in early 1980s, the facility needs amelioration works periodically. It also has over a dozen suites to accommodate the protocol staff accompanying the VIPs.

CBI court issues media gag order in Periye murder case

A Central Bureau of Investigation court in Kochi has banned the media from publishing the statements of witnesses in the Periye twin murder case. The order was issued by CBI Special Judge K. Kamanees who is hearing the case related to the killing of two Youth Congress workers Sharat Lal and Kripesh in 2019. However, the statements of government officials listed as witnesses in the case can be reported.

Small Satellite Launch Vehicle-D2 will lift off from Sriharikota today

It will inject three satellites — ISRO's EOS-07, U.S.-based Antaris's Janus-1 and Chennai-based Space Kidz's AzaadiSAT-2 — into a 450-km orbit

Sangeetha Kandavel
CHENNAI

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will undertake the second development flight of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) on Friday from Sriharikota. The SSLV-D2 will lift off at 9.18 a.m. from the first launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre-SHAR, Sriharikota.

The vehicle is intended to inject the ISRO's EOS-07, the U.S.-based firm Antaris's Janus-1 and the Chennai-based space start-up Space Kidz's AzaadiSAT-2 satellites into a 450-km circular orbit in its 15-minute flight.

The EOS-07 is a 156.3-kg satellite designed, developed and realised by the ISRO. Its mission objective is to design and develop payload instruments compatible with micro satellite bus and technologies that are required for future operational satellites. It would design and develop a micro satellite accommodating new technology payloads in a quick turnaround time. New experiments include mm-Wave humidity sounder and spectrum monitoring payload.

Weighing around 10.2 kg, Janus-1 is a technology demonstrator, smart satellite mission based on the Antaris software platform. A 8.7-kg satellite, AzaadiSAT-2 is a combined effort of about 750 girl students across India guided by Space Kidz India, Chennai.

According to details provided by ISRO, SSLV caters to the launch of satellites weighing up to 500 kg to low earth orbits on a 'launch-on-demand' basis. It provides low-cost access to space, offers low turnaround time and flexibility in accommodating multiple satellites, and demands minimal launch infrastructure. It is configured with three solid propulsion stages and a velocity terminal module. It is a 34-m-tall, 2-m-diameter vehicle with a lift-off mass of 120 tonnes.

Ready to take off: A view of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. ISRO

Oil mill in A.P.'s Kakinada sealed on charges of negligence

The Hindu Bureau
KAKINADA

Kakinada District Collector Krithika Shukla has sealed the Ambati Subbbanna oil mill on charges of negligence and lack of safety measures.

The action followed the death of seven workers, aged between 27 and 40, due to asphyxiation while cleaning the edible oil tanker at G. Ragampeta village, near Peddapuram in Andhra Pradesh on Thursday.

"A case under IPC Section 304-A has been registered against the management," Ms. Krithika told *The Hindu*.

₹25 lakh compensation
The State government had announced a compensation of ₹25 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased, she said.

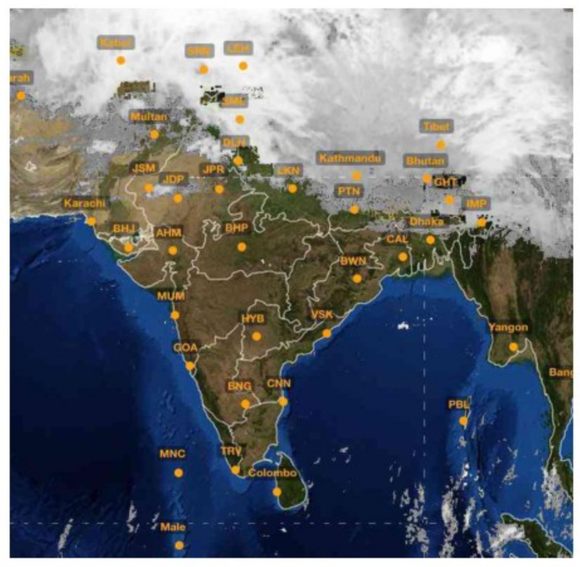
The workers' union was also in talks with the management for a higher compensation, she added.

Inquiry committee
Meanwhile, the Collector constituted a five-member committee to inquire into the incident. It would have to submit the report by February 11.

The committee comprises the Deputy Commissioner of Labour, the Deputy Inspector of Factories, an Executive Engineer, A.P. Pollution Control Board representative, the District Industries Officer, and the Peddapuram Revenue Divisional Officer.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan, Muzaffarabad, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Dense fog likely in isolated pockets over sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Odisha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	29.5	16.8	Kozhikode	—	33.6	25.4
Ahmedabad	—	34.9	12.9	Kurnool	—	35.5	20.7
Aizawl	—	—	9.1	Lucknow	—	27.0	10.5
Allahabad	—	29.0	9.9	Madurai	—	34.0	21.0
Bengaluru	—	31.3	17.5	Mangaluru	—	32.3	22.9
Bhopal	—	—	11.4	Mumbai	—	36.4	19.4
Bhubaneswar	—	32.9	18.2	Mysuru	—	32.7	14.8
Chandigarh	—	26.1	10.5	New Delhi	—	29.4	8.6
Chennai	—	31.7	21.3	Patna	—	26.8	10.9
Coimbatore	—	33.1	20.6	Port Blair	—	31.1	24.1
Dehradun	—	26.6	9.6	Puducherry	—	31.7	19.3
Gangtok	5	8.6	8.2	Pune	—	33.8	15.2
Goa	—	34.0	21.1	Raipur	—	32.3	15.9
Guwahati	—	25.0	13.6	Ranchi	—	28.3	11.0
Hubballi	—	35.0	17.0	Shillong	—	16.1	7.5
Hyderabad	—	34.2	19.0	Shimla	—	16.3	8.8
Imphal	—	24.9	8.5	Srinagar	—	4.9	0.8
Jaipur	—	28.0	12.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.1	22.3
Kochi	—	30.8	25.0	Tiruchi	—	31.7	21.6
Kohima	—	17.2	7.4	Vijayawada	—	33.0	20.8
Kolkata	—	28.6	20.6	Visakhapatnam	—	30.6	22.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.38	2	...6	...295	...309	
Bengaluru	...9	101	.57	79	...122	
Chennai	.24	..33	.56	...159	...122	
Delhi	.19	100	.69	...242	...318	
Hyderabad	.26	..18	.52	...136	...141	
Kolkata	.16	..14	.64	...178	...112	
Lucknow	.14	..27	.74	...126	...136	
Mumbai	.74	265	106	...295	...239	
Pune	..—	..22	.40	...372	...302	
Visakhapatnam	...7	..41	.49	...112	...134	

Yesterday
In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 372 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Nandesari, Gujarat recorded a healthy AQI score of 25

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

'How can CM offer Babli water to Maharashtra?'

The Hindu Bureau
NIZAMABAD

The Bharatiya Janata Party leaders have questioned the rationale behind offering Godavari water to Maharashtra by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao. They accused the BRS president of acting in political interest at the cost of Telangana.

"How can Mr. Chandrasekhar Rao promise to offer Godavari water from Babli to Maharashtra? How can he ask them to lift if necessary? What about the fate of farmers in Nizamabad and Kamareddy districts and across Telangana as well?" asked BJP leaders V. Mohan Reddy and others while addressing a press conference here on Thursday.

Promise recalled
He recalled the promise made by Mr Chandrasekhar Rao at a recent public meeting that if the BRS comes to power at Centre, it would offer to lift water from Babli project.

Ready for Ramzan

Huge process: Workers engaged in cleaning the Makkah Masjid, one of the oldest mosques, ahead of the holy month of Ramzan, in the old city of Hyderabad on Thursday. ANI

Centre invites bids for a mega port at Galathea Bay

Dhinesh Kallungal
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Even as the construction on the Vizhinjam international seaport in Kerala, which has gained pace after a hiatus, the Central government has invited expressions of interest (EOI) bids for the development of a mega international container transhipment port (ICTP) at Galathea Bay on Great Nicobar Island in the Bay of Bengal.

Though the new project is not expected to affect the prospects of Vizhinjam in a big way, it will cater to the transhipment traffic from ports along the east coast of Indian ports, which will also benefit from the Vizhinjam port, apart from Bangladesh and Myanmar because of its proximity to Port Klang and Singapore. The new port to be set up at an estimated cost of ₹18.308 crore in the first phase and ₹35,959 crore in the final phase is situated at a strategic location midway between existing transhipment terminals (Singapore, Klang, Colombo) and feeder ports.

According to the EoI, the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata, proposes to develop the greenfield ICTP in Galathea Bay in landlord mode on behalf of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation Limited. The concessionaire would be awarded a long-term public-private partnership concession of 30 to 50 years (based on requirement) for the development, operation and maintenance of the container handling facilities envisaged in Phase I development of the port.

Advantage of Vizhinjam
Speaking to *The Hindu*, Jayakumar, CEO of Vizhinjam International Seaport Ltd. (VISL), said Vizhinjam port will not be hit significantly by the new project as Vizhinjam is hardly 10 nautical miles away from the main international shipping route.

Further, the Vizhinjam port can cater to the ports on the eastern and western coast of India through feeder ship services, rail and road routes, while the proposed port at Galathea Bay can serve the ports on eastern coast only through feeder coastal shipping.

Fastest legal electric car unveiled

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Hyderabad unveiled Mahindra's Pininfarina Battista at Hitex Exhibition Centre on Thursday.

It is the fastest street-legal electric car on roads that goes from 0-100 kmph in two seconds. It can come to stop at that speed in 31 metres.

Kerala Assembly adjourned after Oppn. protests over price rise

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Speaker A.N. Shamseer adjourned the Kerala Assembly on Thursday following strident Opposition protests over fuel, piped water, power and liquor price increase.

Congress-led United Democratic Front legislators marched to the Assembly complex from the nearby MLA hostel. They displayed a long banner accusing the government of robbery and pickpocketing. The Assembly session will resume on February 27.

Later, the legislators trooped into the Well of the House, disrupting the question hour. They shouted slogans against the government's fiscal policy. Mr. Shamseer's appeals for calm failed to douse the protest. The Speaker hurried through the day's business, requested Ministers to table their reports and adjourned the House.

Meanwhile, the four Opposition legislators staging a sit-in outside the Assembly chamber ended their demonstration.

LDF convener E.P. Jayarajan mocked the UDF legislators' march to the Assembly as a "casual morning walk".

Huge rally: Opposition leaders protesting against the Kerala Budget in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday. S. MAHINSHA

Man in judicial custody for assaulting Dalit woman

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

In an incident that has come to light late, a Dalit woman has been thrashed in public and in front of her nine-year-old daughter, by a man at Rampur village in Kanakagiri taluk of Koppal district. The incident is said to have happened on February 3.

The accused has been identified as Amaresh Kumbar, 45, of the same village. As per the accounts of the victim, one of her cows went missing on the night of February 2 and she and her husband went in different directions in the fields searching for it the next morning. When she came to know that the animal was captured and tied to a pole by Amaresh Kumbar in front of his house, she reached the spot, along with her daughter.

"Amaresh Kumbar said that our cow strayed into their agricultural field and destroyed their crop. He instantly started abusing me in filthy language and insulted me on the basis of my caste [Madiga] in a public place for what he said letting my cow into their fields. Unable to hear the verbal offensive, I asked my daughter to go home, but she did not. The assailant slapped me twice on my face in public and my daughter started crying. When I fell down on the ground, the assailant removed his chappals and thrashed me with them mercilessly," the victim told *The Hindu* over phone on Thursday. The victim, with the help of her relatives, later reached Kanakagiri Police Station the same day and lodged a complaint, following which a case was registered against the assailant under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act apart from various sections of IPC.

The victim was later admitted in hospital. She was discharged on Thursday.

Two taken into custody for 'consuming' meat on Tirumala

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUMALA

The vigilance and security personnel of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) on Thursday took two persons into custody on charge of consuming meat at a shopping complex in the temple town.

The personnel raided the complex and took the two people into custody. Even as the details are yet to be established, the accused are said to belong to Shikari (tribal) community who eke out their livelihood by selling beads and wooden toys.

Sage stance

Price stability is a must for a durable economic recovery

The Reserve Bank of India's decision to raise its benchmark policy rate yet again, albeit by a smaller quarter percentage point, reflects a welcome resolve in staying committed to ensuring durable price stability. Given that the Monetary Policy Committee's primary mandate is to steer retail inflation towards a 4% target, and that core price gains have stayed stuck above or almost at 6% for 20 months, the rate setting panel voted by a 4-2 majority to continue tightening policy. Governor Shaktikanta Das emphasised the significance of the MPC's unwavering focus on inflation when he noted that medium-term growth prospects would be best strengthened by 'keeping inflation expectations anchored and breaking the persistence of core inflation'. That inflation remains the key risk to the growth outlook, notwithstanding the easing in the headline print for retail price gains over November and December, was stressed by the MPC. The panel pointed to the deflation in vegetable prices in end 2022 and cautioned that this trend could likely dissipate as summer approaches and prices harden. Commodity prices are also expected to see upward pressure globally, given the lifting of most COVID-related restrictions, particularly in China. Specifically, the recent uptrend in Brent futures and the intensifying Ukraine conflict forebodes the possibility that oil costs may well upset the RBI's assumption of an average price of $95 per barrel for India's crude basket.

The MPC's decision to raise rates by a marginally smaller 25 basis points (bps) this time following its December decision to temper the tightening to 35 bps after three straight half percentage point increases, shows it is cognisant of the growth-retarding challenges that rising credit costs could pose to the ongoing post-pandemic recovery. Still, the fact that the Indian economy has proved more resilient, underpinned by a rebound in domestic demand especially for contact-intensive services and discretionary spending, has provided a degree of comfort to monetary policymakers. This was manifest in their upgrades to the GDP growth forecasts for the first two quarters of the coming fiscal year. While the RBI raised its growth outlook for Q1 FY24 to 7.8%, a sizeable 70 bps up from its projection in December, it lifted its Q2 projection by 30 bps to 6.2%. Mr. Das's unequivocal assertion that monetary policy must be "tailored to ensuring a durable disinflation" rightly echoes a recent blogpost by three IMF economists who warned that central banks need to stay resolute as any 'premature loosening' of policy risks a sharp resurgence in price gains that could leave countries susceptible to further shocks. Ultimately, price stability is and must remain the bedrock for a durable economic recovery.

State of affairs

Biden knows he must focus on both the U.S. economy and global challenges

In his second State of the Union address, U.S. President Joe Biden tried to articulate several messages under one big theme – his administration was committed to rebuilding America's economy while standing up to its challenges abroad. Much of the 72-minute speech was on the domestic agenda, particularly his economic optimism. The speech saw self-appreciation, ideas and rhetoric – he took pride in his economic policies, emphasising the low unemployment rate and easing inflation, repeated the calls for taxing the super rich and bringing down prices of essential drugs, promised not to cut Social Security and Medicare and declared that democracies have become stronger and autocracies weaker. While there was no major policy shift, the 80-year-old President repeated the phrase "finish the job", indicating that he needed more time to build on what he has already done – seen as a pitch for his re-election campaign. Mr. Biden also referred to Russia and China as key foreign policy challenges – the Ukraine invasion as "a test for America", and that America "will act to protect our country" if its sovereignty is threatened, an indirect reference to the balloon incident.

If Mr. Biden used the speech to defend his legacy and lay his vision, it also laid bare his administration's critical challenges. To be sure, the unemployment rate fell to the lowest level since 1969 – to 3.4% in January 2023 – and inflation continued to ease in the month. Still, most Americans (58% as in a recent survey), burdened by high energy prices and slow growth in wages, remain unhappy with his handling of the economy. The President may have plans for re-election, but only 37% Democrats back him. Mr. Biden will also face growing resistance to his policies from Congress in a Republican-controlled House. On foreign policy, the U.S. has so far stood resolutely behind Ukraine, but, as the war grinds on, there are rising questions about a possible endgame. A bigger challenge for Mr. Biden is how to handle ties with China at a time when the two superpowers compete for global influence. The balloon incident suggests that it is not an easy task. Half of Mr. Biden's first term is over. As the election season is heating up, time is running short and his task is cut out – he has to act more decisively on the economic front if he wants to build a fair order of competition and opportunities, work towards ending the war in Ukraine without compromising on America's standing in Europe, and put in place stronger guardrails in U.S.-China relations to check an escalation in tensions and deterioration in ties.

India must avoid growing into a dystopia

Pulapre Balakrishnan

teaches at Ashoka University, Sonipat, Haryana

The Budget that was presented recently, has received almost universal praise in the English language media. Clearly, those who praise it are happy with their own economic situation or at least view their economic future as bright. How representative this cohort is is moot. Anyhow, they see the Budget as pro-growth, and their prognosis is plausible. Data presented in this newspaper (January 13, 2023) show private investment plans during the first nine months of this year to be over 50% greater than what they were a year ago. India it seems is on a roll as far as economic growth is concerned. But is income all we should be concerned with when valuing an economy?

As in many other instances, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has led the focus on the size of India's economy. In 2019, upon re-election, he proposed a target of $5 trillion within five years (2024-25) for India's economy. As the date approaches, it is clear that the goal is unlikely to be met. This has not held back the enthusiastic cheerleaders, however. News that was sprung some months ago of India having overtaken the United Kingdom to become the world's fifth largest economy seems only to have buoyed their spirit. Next, as 2022 drew to a close, the London-based consultancy Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) predicted that by 2035, India's economy would reach $10 trillion and become the world's third largest by 2037. Even as this is sounded from the West, home-grown soothsayers have not been left behind. A few days ago, a leading Indian financial daily calculated the average annual growth needed to take India to the number one spot globally by 2047, and indicated that this is not a pipe dream. It is an altogether different matter that its calculation was of nominal GDP, which implies that the target can be reached with a little help from inflation.

The West's self-interest in India

India's rise on the global stage attracts attention in the West. First, there is an element of awe that a country once a byword for famine has finally sloughed off the deadweight of colonial exploitation that lasted two centuries. Second, India is not only a relatively rare democracy in the east but also the largest one in terms of population. As all the countries in the West are democracies, western elites see a possible alliance of interests.

India has warmed to this, and it makes strategic sense. The economics is not far behind, though. India's growing economic size has made it attractive in a way that it was not before. This is not as a market for goods though as the West's manufactures are no longer alluring to Indians. But its fast growth is an investment opportunity for the surplus savings of the West. As a fast growing economy, investing your money in India is likely to fetch you the highest returns globally. So, the continuous hum from the West about India's growth reflects a deep-seated self interest. But how should we in India view the rosy predictions of the growth of its economy? There are two aspects to this. First, can we assume that current growth rates will continue? And, second, can we afford to be sanguine about the consequences of our growing economic size?

> Enthusiastic cheerleaders of the rosy predictions of the growth of the Indian economy need to be reminded about addressing the core issues of unemployment and ecological security

Jobs and the ecology

Let us simply assume that India will grow into a $10 trillion economy in 15 years. This would be over three times its current size. Will size bring along the attributes that we would like to see in an economy? Or will it, in a worst-case scenario, lead us to a dystopia induced by their absence? In particular, will the economic growth lead to employment opportunities for a growing population of youth and generate the social and physical infrastructure necessary for a good life? Or will it magnify the rising economic inequality and ecological insecurity? None of these outcomes is inevitable but a creative economic management of the growth process would be necessary to bring about the positive ones and to avert those that are negative. I shall confine myself to employment and ecological security, respectively.

Unemployment was barely mentioned in the Finance Minister's Budget speech. Government data show that in mid-2022, unemployment among urban males was much higher than it was a decade ago. Taking another approach to the problem, data from the private sector, namely Centre For Monitoring Indian Economy Pvt. Ltd., show that the number of people employed in December 2022 was less than it was in 2016. Clearly, the growth of the national economy has not generated an equal growth in employment. For the mass of the unemployed, concentrated in agriculture, employment opportunities will arise only when there is demand for goods in the production of which they can participate. Growth of the IT sector or of exportable manufactures will not be of much use here as this is a cohort with low education and skills. Increased demand for goods of mass consumption alone will lead to an expansion in the demand for these workers. For an expansion of this demand, arresting the price of food would be essential, as only then will low-income households have enough to demand more manufactured goods. Instead, we have today a persisting inflation driven by the price of food.

Our experience of the past decade suggests that India could well grow fast over the next decade-and-a-half without generating sufficient employment for the legion of unemployed youth, especially in rural areas. Fast growth would be cold comfort for them if employment opportunities do not arise. Only a concerted policy focus can create the conditions for employment generation in India. Currently, we do not have an employment policy, either at the Centre or in the States. Welfarism, defined by the free or subsidised distribution of private goods, is no substitute.

On the infrastructure push

In the continuing unemployment, we have seen that growth does not guarantee the things we would aspire to in the economy. On the other hand, we can see that unbridled growth will almost certainly result in outcomes we would like to avoid, such as ecological insecurity. I shall point to one such outcome associated with a public investment thrust now focused on physical infrastructure. The frenetic building of new elevated national highways, implemented by riding rough-shod over local communities, often cuts a swathe through the countryside, destroying agricultural land and jeopardising livelihoods. State governments have not been far behind when it comes to encouraging disastrous geo-engineering projects. Plans for infrastructure aimed at religious tourism have, surprisingly, found favour with formations as diverse as the Bharatiya Janata Party in Uttarakhand and the CPI(M) in Kerala. These are States that have only recently witnessed landslides and flooding, causing great suffering to their people. Across India, political parties seem to be pursuing growth with a view to enhancing their electoral prospects, without concern for a possible negative fallout.

India needs growth as it has a backlog of poverty. But the growth that one often sees does not do enough for improving the lives of the poorest, such as by generating employment, and is ecologically harmful. Size is valuable only when it enhances the well being of the population.

Exploring the blue in the India-France partnership

Harsh V. Pant

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Ankita Dutta

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The celebration by India and France of 25 years of their strategic partnership (January 26) presents an important opportunity for both to introspect on their relations. Signed in 1998, the time-tested strategic partnership has continued to gain momentum over shared values and aspirations of peace, stability and, most importantly, their desire for strategic autonomy. There are no real substantive disagreements between the two nations. France has emerged as a key trading partner of India with annual trade of $12.42 billion in 2021-22. It is the 11th largest foreign investor in India with a cumulative investment of $10.31 billion from April 2000 to June 2022, which represents 1.70% of the total foreign direct investment inflows into India.

The big picture

More importantly, it has emerged as a key defence partner for India, becoming the second largest defence supplier in 2017- 2021. France has emerged as a major strategic partner for India with crucial defence deals and increased military to military engagement. A key example of this is the inducting of the French Scorpene conventional submarines, being built in India under technology transfer agreement of 2005, and the Indian Air Force having received 36 Rafale fighter jets. The Tata group has also tied up with Airbus to manufacture C-295 tactical transport aircraft in Vadodara, Gujarat. This line is expected to be expanded into other civilian and military aircraft manufacturing in a joint venture with France. These relations are further fortified with the robust network of military dialogues and regularly held joint exercises – Varuna (navy), Garuda (air force), and Shakti (army). The importance of the defence partnership was further underscored in the recent statement by the French Ambassador to India, Emmanuel Lenain – that France is a willing partner for India as it builds its national industrial base for the defence industry and for critical strategic defence projects. As the complexities in the international geopolitical order have emerged, both countries have worked towards a deepening and broadening of their cooperation. France was among the first countries with which India signed a civil nuclear deal. Paris also played a critical role in limiting India's isolation in the non-proliferation order after the 1998 nuclear tests. In a sign of expanding cooperation, France supports India's bid for permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council as well as its entry into the Nuclear Suppliers Group. An area of importance for both is climate change, where India has supported France in the Paris Agreement expressing its strong commitment towards mitigating climate change impact. New Delhi and Paris, as part of their joint efforts on climate change, launched the International Solar Alliance in 2015.

> Their established ties rest on a foundation of common values and goals

Maritime ties

The deepening of the strategic partnership is also visible in their maritime cooperation. India and France are resident powers of the Indian Ocean and in the Indo-Pacific. The importance of the Indian Ocean Region was visible during the visit of French President Emmanuel Macron's visit to New Delhi in 2018 when the leadership of both countries welcomed the "Joint Strategic Vision of India-France Cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region" which presented a blueprint for a strengthening of ties. In operational terms, Franco-Indian joint patrolling in the Indian Ocean signals New Delhi's intent to engage with like-minded partners in expanding its footprint in the Indian Ocean.

Maritime security has further gained momentum as both countries have articulated their common vision for a free, fair and open Indo-Pacific. As both countries share a comprehensive strategy for the Indo-Pacific (it seeks to provide comprehensive solutions for maritime security, regional cooperation, climate change adaptation), India and France in September 2022 agreed to set up an Indo-Pacific Trilateral Development Cooperation Fund that will support sustainable innovative solutions for countries in the region. The two partners have formed a trilateral grouping with the United Arab Emirates to ensure maritime domain awareness and security from the east coast of Africa to the far Pacific.

While there are divergences over the Ukraine crisis, there is a broad understanding of each other's position and both countries are working together to coordinate on playing a constructive role in the crisis. It also needs to be noted that Mr. Macron and Prime Minister Narendra Modi are among the few world leaders who have maintained open communication channels with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Both countries share concerns over the rise of China and its aggressive behaviour, regionally and globally, and have committed to working together to ensure that there is no imbalance in the Indo-Pacific.

Much potential

India's partnership with France is built on common values and goals. Both have underlined the 'importance of maintaining strategic autonomy with a shared understanding of global risks in many domains. There is a high-level India-France political dialogue that is ongoing in defence, maritime, counterterrorism and the Indo-Pacific. They are now forging ahead with cooperation in issues such as digitisation, cyber, green energy, a blue economy, ocean sciences, and space'.

India and France understand each other's interests and dependencies, be it in relation to China or Russia. In the marking of a long strategic partnership, a common interest in enhancing strategic autonomy and improving resilience, there is much ground ahead for further collaboration.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Judge's elevation

The raging controversy surrounding L. Victoria Gowri's elevation to the Bench (the Madras High Court) is somewhat similar to the appointment of Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer as a Supreme Court judge. Hostile lawyers described him as a political animal whose ideologies might unsettle long-held judicial views. But, there is a difference. Justice Krishna Iyer never indulged in expressing inflammable opinions on religious lines or kicked up any unseemly controversy. But, in Ms. Gowri's case, she has in the past gone public with her vitriolic attack on the minorities. The 'connivance' between the judiciary and the executive and the speed with which she has been made a High Court judge leave a lot to be desired.

V. Lakshmanan,
Tirupur, Tamil Nadu

There will be a question mark over her judicial competence given her background of allegedly indulging in hate speech. What is more interesting is the promptness shown by the Law Ministry in approving her name which has not been seen in other cases (judge Saurabh Kripal). The perception is that of a selective picking of names with a malicious expectation that such appointees will favour the present regime in future. Such an appointment process poses a great threat to judicial independence.

Shayan Das,
Gobardanga, West Bengal

Only in Bihar

It is baffling, and also shocking, how a two-kilometre length of railway track in Madhubani district in Bihar was found to have been 'stolen'. The incident may sound weird, but considering how thieves have managed to steal parts of roads, bridges and mobile towers in Bihar in the past, the act of stealing a track now may seem on a par with the previous devilments ("Off the beaten track, thieves make away with the railway line in Madhubani", February 8). It was even more shocking to know that the stolen track was part of scrap material that was to be auctioned. Thanks to the complicity of some railway officials, the track was sold without even floating a tender.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

Corrections & Clarifications

In the report headlined "India developing border connectivity due to China concerns: Jaishankar" (February 9, 2023), the name of the Chinese Foreign Minister was erroneously mentioned as *Wang Yi*. It should have been *Qin Gang*.

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Should there be elections to the Congress Working Committee?

Praveen Chakravarthy

is Chairman of the Congress Data Analytics Department

Mridula Mukherjee

is a former Professor of History at JNU and former Director at Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

PARLEY

Last October, Mallikarjun Kharge was elected as the national president of the Congress party. The election was historic as the party's top post was, from 1978, occupied by a member of the Nehru-Gandhi family (except for brief spells between 1992 and 1998). Officially, the party says it is now ready to hold a similar election to the Congress Working Committee (CWC), its highest decision-making body, but there are still internal debates going on. The last time the CWC had an election was in 1997, under the presidency of Sitaram Kesri. Should there be an election now to the CWC? Mridula Mukherjee and Praveen Chakravarthy discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Sandeep Phukan**. Edited excerpts:

Should there be elections to the CWC?

Praveen Chakravarty: Before I start, I want to clarify that all my views are in my personal capacity.

I think there should be no dogmatic doctrine about inner party democracy. Let us understand the context of today's situation. We have general elections in 2024. The Congress has just elected a president who will have the responsibility of leading the party in the general elections. In this context, how should the highest decision-making body of the party be constituted?

Now, elections to the decision-making body can have its advantages in terms of bringing in new people. Or perhaps not, because they could also favour people who have been in the party for a long time. Nevertheless, it is important for the party president to be able to have a team that he can rely on to lead the party in the next elections. It was keeping in mind the elections that the Bharatiya Janata Party, in January, extended the tenure of its current president until June 2024. It was signaling that it did not want to disturb the current set-up until the elections. So, should the Congress enter into another experiment with the CWC elections, which could cause disturbances within the party? My answer is no, considering the context.

Second, the president himself has just been elected by a larger body, the electoral college, of nearly 10,000 members. Remember, the AICC [All-India Congress Committee] members will only be one-eighth of the electoral body that elected the president. So, when a larger body has elected that president, perhaps it is only appropriate that we let the president choose his team that he can rely on to lead the party.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge at the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Srinagar. ANI

Mridula Mukherjee: A certain process has been set in motion with the election of the Congress president and I think there's a logic to that. There's also a process that has been set forth by the Bharat Jodo Yatra. There is a certain churning in the party which needed to be introduced because the old system was not delivering in terms of electoral gains. This process of change is happening for the good. I don't think we saw any disaster with the election of the Congress president; it went through quite smoothly. Half the members of the CWC are not elected. The president will anyway have an opportunity to appoint the rest. Allowing an election will be a positive sign. This process of rebuilding the party gives a good signal to people at all levels of the party structure that they have an opportunity for free contest. We have to assume that the party gets strengthened by electing different group representatives or different individuals representing different views or maybe even factions. That curbs dissidence. I appreciate Mr. Chakravarty's argument about stability and elections coming up soon. But there has been a commitment to holding elections at all levels for quite some time now. Going back on that will not send a good signal.

Those who argue in favour of an elected CWC say it will ensure a sense of collective leadership that is essential for a political party. And, as Professor Mukherjee pointed out, it would allow room for different views. And what better platform than the CWC?

PC: I would actually contest the premise that elections will yield better representation in the decision-making body within the party than, say, a nominated body. In fact, I would argue that elections do not necessarily yield representation. As I said earlier, this doctrinaire approach that any election in any democracy is

> There has been a commitment to holding elections at all levels for quite some time. Going back on that will not send a good signal.
> **MRIDULA MUKHERJEE**

a good thing is not something I believe in. Everything has a context in which it is good or bad. The significant change from the past is that we have an elected Congress president today for the first time in more than two and a half decades. Allow the president to lead the party with a decision-making body that will have representations of every section within the party, rather than relying on a certain internal electoral outcome. When facing an election next year, it is perhaps not the time to experiment.

Since 1998, when Sonia Gandhi became party president, it has been a practice to nominate half the CWC members. Recently the change seekers under the banner of G-23 wanted elections at all levels.

MM: It's precisely to prevent the emergence of dissidence of that kind that you need elections. When you have provided people place in the decision-making bodies through an open process, it becomes far more difficult for them to argue that their point of view is not being heard or that they're not being given an adequate opportunity.

I am aware that often elections reproduce existing structures, because those who are entrenched in positions of power socially, politically and otherwise in society also have a capacity to win elections. Elections are not necessarily pure contests. Nevertheless, given what's happened in the party in the last few years, it is necessary to provide that space within the party structure.

And look at the history of the Congress, especially before Independence. In much more difficult circumstances and with far more contentious issues at stake, with hugely popular leaders from all over the country, the election method worked. And differences did get resolved through open contests. Often, even at the AICC sessions, decisions as important as whether or not to go in for the Non-Cooperation Movement were taken through an open voting. There was no fear of people expressing their opinion, there was confidence that the better argument will win, that the Congress leadership would be able to persuade people from across the country to a point of view which the top leadership had. Gandhiji, for example, would often urge decisions that were not necessarily popular decisions and win, but it was all done in these open contests.

Today, we are facing a crisis of democracy. And one way that we argue in favour of democracy is by being democratic within.

PC: I appreciate Professor Mukherjee's point about the history of the Congress. But I think it is a different context today. It is probably for the first time in recent decades that the Congress is facing an extremely competitive electoral marketplace. In that context, the first objective is to have a very strong party organisation to be able to compete in this marketplace.

Second, the question of what was demanded earlier by a certain group of people and how applicable it is in today's context... I think a lot of it is different now because there was a process of electing the Congress president. Today, there is an elected Congress president and someone from outside the Nehru-Gandhi family. Perhaps if there was no general elections, I would be in favour of holding elections to the CWC.

Third, I want to make some empirical points. One, it is not coincidental that there is no political party in India that has a constitutional process to hold elections internally. There's a reason for that. People, at least insiders, place party cohesion and stability at the top as an objective. Two, we have to see what happened to the Conservative Party in the U.K. It just disintegrated [as it was] largely driven by an internal election process. I'm not suggesting that should entirely be applicable here. But it is a lesson in the broader context of inner party democracy when faced with an election that we must consider.

MM: I think the Conservative Party and the Labour Party have established mechanisms of functioning and they have served British politics in good stead. So, I don't think it's a very good argument in India that other parties don't follow such practices. The only parties we can look at are the Left parties that follow democratic centralism and never really allow genuine internal democracy. The BJP isn't a good example either. I think the Congress has a stellar record of internal democracy that has worked in Indian conditions. That's a history and a record that should not be thrown by the wayside.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

Reporting on loss, grief and resilience during a tragedy

The role of the journalist is to tell the world about the disaster and also go back and follow up on stories

Suhasini Haidar

Is a journalist a human first? This question was answered convincingly by mountaineer filmmaker David Breashears during the ill-fated ascent of Mount Everest in 1996, when a blizzard killed eight climbers. Instead of filming the tragedy, Breashears and his team put down their cameras and went to save people. Most journalists don't have to make such dire choices when they go to cover humanitarian tragedies. For the most part, journalists arrive on the scene after the first responders do. The role of the journalist runs parallel to that of rescue workers; it is to tell the world about the tragedy – whether a tsunami, a cyclone or an earthquake of the magnitude that hit Turkey and Syria this week. It is often to these stories that the world reacts quickly and sends help.

It was a Sunday morning after Christmas when I was called into work in 2004 – some sort of a flood had been reported on Chennai beach. But soon it was clear that this was something much bigger. Within hours, our team was on board a relief flight to Chennai, and then down the coast towards Nagapattinam as casualties rose from dozens to hundreds and then to thousands. In hospital corridors, we were stunned by the sight of bodies piled up by the walls. Funeral pyres continued through the night.

Next, we flew to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands where distress calls had come in from Car Nicobar. Officers and their families at an Indian Air Force (IAF) base had been washed away by waves that some described as 100 feet tall. We saw cars and furniture perched high atop trees, where they had been deposited by the waves. Many people were still trapped beneath the rubble of their homes, and rescue workers used whatever implements they could find, including their hands, to free them. Most victims were dumbstruck by what they had seen, but the memories that remain are the haunting cries of parents who had seen their children being taken away by the force of the tide. One mother kept telling me how she had held on to her infant tightly, but the wave had wrenched him from her arms.

As the IAF transported survivors from Car Nicobar to Port Blair camps, officers walked each family through medical check-ups and then onto An-32 transport aircraft, giving flight instructions to people who had never been on board a plane before and were frozen with fear. Some refused to board, still waiting for loved ones who had gone missing, but there was little left on the island, and they had to be moved. It is always humbling to see how the armed forces work in such tragedies, giving their all to save each life. During the tsunami, India sent military teams to assist Sri Lanka and Indonesia. The tradition continues, with National Disaster Response Force teams going to Turkey and Syria this week.

Every humanitarian tragedy of this magnitude has distinct phases. The first is the search and rescue effort. In time, priority shifts to taking care of survivors with medical aid, food and water, and temporary shelter. A major concern then is the spread of disease from the scarcity of drinking water and cramped conditions at relief camps. Finally, authorities move towards rehabilitation and reconstruction, and much depends on how much aid flows in for this effort.

For a journalist, the hardest part is having to leave at the end of the assignment, with the sense that we are abandoning those hit hardest by the disaster. It is important to go back, and follow up on stories. One of my happier moments was visiting a unique adoption centre in Tamil Nadu, where parents who had lost children during the tsunami were matched with orphans who had lost their parents, their shared experience helping, in some way, to heal their trauma.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

A grief like no other

A mother in Syria kisses the hand of her daughter who died in the earthquake. Rescuers pulled out more survivors from the rubble on Thursday, but hopes of finding many more people alive more than three days after a catastrophic earthquake and a series of aftershocks hit Turkey and Syria were starting to fade. AP

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 10, 1973

PM's gesture to Gorkha widows

Pokhara (Western Nepal), Feb. 9: The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, to-day spared two hours of her busy schedule to make a flying visit here to convey India's gratitude for the gallantry and sacrifices of the Gorkha soldiers and their dependents. Mrs. Gandhi, who was accompanied by the Nepal Prime Minister, Mr. Kirtinidhi Bista, and members of her party, gave gift parcels to the widows and dependents of those killed. Many broke down by her touching gesture. The parcels contained blankets, bedsheets, sarees and, in some cases, Indian-made watches. The lush green valley shone brightly after overnight showers, as Mrs. Gandhi and party arrived by an I.A.F. plane. Mrs. Gandhi had a special word of consolation for the aged mother of Pathirain Gurung, of the First Gorkha Rifles, who laid down his life in the western sector in December 1971, and won a posthumous Maha Vir Chakra.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 10, 1923

In France

Paris, Feb. 9: In order to meet the budget deficit of three and a half milliard francs the Finance Minister De La Steyrec intends to modify the proposal to increase taxation by twenty per cent. The 20 per cent increase will apply only to certain direct taxes. There will be a general increase of ten per cent from which customs dues, business turn-over, luxuries and salaries will be exempt.

From Page One

Mud-slinging will help lotus grow, says Modi

Pointing to his former position as Gujarat Chief Minister, he said that his government had always supported cooperative and competitive federalism. His effort was to combine national progress and regional aspirations, said the Prime Minister, adding that the priority of his government was common people.

"Those who are sitting in Opposition today, they had tampered with the rights of States," Mr. Modi said, taking the attack to the Opposition.

His speech was drowned out by MPs from the Congress, Trinamool, AAP, BRS, DMK and Left parties, who were raising slogans in the well of the House. Several Opposition MPs were standing at their seats in protest against Mr. Modi's silence on the Hindenburg revelations regarding the Adani Group and its impact on state-owned SBI and LIC.

Singling out the Left parties and the DMK, the Prime Minister sought to remind them how Congress governments in the past had misused Article 356 to get rid of elected governments. "Look at the history, which party and people in power misused Article 356 the most? A Prime Minister used Article 356 fifty times, and scored a half-century and that name is Indira Gandhi," he said.

Particularly targeting the first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, Mr. Modi noted that none of his descendants used the Nehru surname, even while the Congress accused him of not mentioning Pandit Nehru in his speeches. During the Congress regimes, Raj Bhavans were functioning as Congress offices, he said, declaring that he was there to work for the country while the Opposition was playing politics.

7 asphyxiated while cleaning oil tank in A.P.

The bodies have been shifted to the Kakinada Government General Hospital for post-mortem examination.

Kakinada District Collector Krithika Shukla said Ambati Subbanna & Co Oils Mill had been sealed for negligence and lack of safety measures. A case under IPC Section 304 A had been registered against the management on charges of 'negligence', she said. Ms. Shukla said the State government had announced ₹25 lakh compensation to each of the deceased families.

Centre wanted vetting process to pick judges

On December 8 last year, Attorney-General R. Venkataramani drew the attention of a Bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and A.S. Oka to a letter written by the government to the Secretary-General of the Supreme Court on July 11, 2017.

This letter highlighted the observations made by two Supreme Court judges in a judgment which sentenced Calcutta High Court judge C.S. Karnan to six months' imprisonment for contempt on July 4, 2017. Justices J. Chelameswar and Ranjan Gogoi, now retired, had observed that Mr. Karnan's case "brought out the system's failure of not providing an appropriate procedure for making assessment of the personality of the contemnor [Karnan] at the time of recommending his name for elevation".

Mr. Venkataramani's 11-page status report quoted the two judges' observation that "what appropriate mechanism would be suitable for assessing the personality of a candidate being considered for appointment to be a member of a constitutional court is a matter which is to be identified after an appropriate debate by all concerned – the Bar, the Bench, the state and civil society. But the need appears to be unquestionable".

The government's letter, which was sent only days after the Karnan judgment, told the Supreme Court that a "new opportunity" had been created, and there was a "compelling need to make improvements" in the selection process under the collegium system. The court, according to the government's status report, never replied to the letter. The Centre said this was one of the reasons why the finalisation of the Memorandum of Procedure for judicial appointments (MoP) was still pending despite the court's October 2015 direction to the government in the NJAC verdict to "supplement" the MoP in consultation with the Supreme Court to make the selection process "transparent and accountable".

The order of the court on December 8 records the contents of the status report. However, the Bench said the "final view of the Supreme Court Collegium" was expressed in the version of the MoP it had sent to the government on March 13, 2017, almost four months before the Karnan case verdict. "We have endeavoured to emphasise to the Attorney-General the undisputed legal position that the MoP is final. That does not mean that if the government suggests some changes or improvements in the MoP, that cannot be looked into. But till that happens, the MoP, as existing, would apply," the Bench observed in its December 8 order.

On February 7, a Special Bench of Justices Sanjeev Khanna and B.R. Gavai defended the scrutiny process of the collegium system as "fairly robust".

The Bench surmised that the collegium "must have" known about the social media utterances of Justice Gowri, which the petitioners said amounted to "hate speech", before recommending her for appointment as an Additional Judge of the Madras High Court.

For Brus, feeling rootedness in the vote

Over 14,000 of the tribe displaced from Mizoram have been registered to vote in Tripura since their rehabilitation process began in April 2021, but they are divided on which party should get the credit — the BJP, which facilitated their relocation, or Tipra Motha, which has been pushing their case

Rahul Karmakar
HADUKLAO

Dharmendra Reang is a first-time voter at 29, an aberration in politically conscious Tripura.

He did try to enrol after turning 18, but was a person without a State. Among 40,000 Bru tribespeople, he was caught between Mizoram and Tripura until a quadripartite accord in January 2020 removed the uncertainty from his electoral identity. Tripura will go to the polls on February 16.

"To be able to vote is a great feeling, especially after several failed attempts to be registered as a voter in Mizoram," said Mr. Dharmendra Reang, a cook in a Thiruvananthapuram hotel, displaying his elector photo identity card.

His five-member family is one of the 440 Bru refugee families now settled permanently at Haduklao Natunbasti, about 3 km off National Highway 8, which snakes through Dhalai district in Tripura.

The new settlement, one of 11 so far, has plots allotted for 60 more families.

New haven: Bru people at Tripura's Haduklao Natunbasti, the first settlement of people who fled ethnic violence in Mizoram in 1997. RAHUL KARMAKAR

From refugee to voter

Haduklao Natunbasti is about 75 km from Tripura's capital Agartala and "six hours by public transport" from the village in Mizoram's Mamit district where Mr. Reang was born. He has no memory of the place he was forced to leave following a wave of ethnic violence in 1997, driving his family to a relief camp in Tripura.

"I would hardly spend 30 days on leave from Kerala when we were at the Naisingpara relief camp. I have now spent almost thrice the time to get my voter ID and vote on February 16," he said.

Naisingpara was one of six relief camps in the Kanchanpur and Panisagar subdivisions of North Tripura district adjoining Mizoram.

The first batches of refugees from these camps were resettled near Haduklao and Duklai villages in Dhalai district in April 2021.

"A total of 16 places in four districts of Tripura were selected for resettlement after the accord was signed among the Centre, the governments of Mizoram and Tripura and five of our organisations. Many niggles in the rehabilitation process remain, but our people are now assured of some future," Bruno Msha of the Mizoram Bru Displaced People's Forum said.

Prior to the resettlement process, the Tripura government notified more than 32,000 Bru refugees as its permanent citizens.

Eager to vote

Tripura's Chief Electoral Officer Kirankumar Dinkarrao Gitte said that 14,054 people from 5,645 Bru families were among some 80,000 new voters in the State.

One of the first Brus to get enrolled was Podoram Reang, who voted thrice at a special polling booth set up for the refugees at Kanhmun on the Mizoram-Tripura boundary during elections.

"I used to feel sad because Kanhmun was nearer to K. Salaripara, the village in Mizoram we left behind, than from the relief camps in Tripura. Voting for the first time in Tripura will perhaps help erase the sadness of having been uprooted," Mr. Podoram Reang said.

Koina Reang, who also lives in Natunbasti, said that her parents used to endure a tortuous 40-km journey from their relief camp to Kanhmun out of the fear that they would lose their right to land if they did not cast their votes. "There is no such fear now and the 2-km walk to the polling booth should be fun," the 22-year-old first-time voter said.

At the ballot box

Natunbasti's settlers are now caught in a dilemma: who to vote for?

"Our rehabilitation was possible because of the BJP government in Tripura. At the same time, we cannot but acknowledge *Bubagra* for pushing our case," Uttam K. Reang, a leader of the Bru Tribal Development Society, said.

Bubagra, meaning king in the local language, is the term Tripura's tribal people use for Pradyot Bikram Manikya Debbarma, the chief of the Tipra Motha.

The party has shaped up as a major challenger to the ruling BJP as well as to the Left Front-Congress combine in 42 of the State's 60 Assembly seats.

Freebies dominate BJP's *Sankalp Patra* for Tripura election

The Hindu Bureau
AGARTALA

BJP chief J.P. Nadda claims that the party is the only one which goes to the people with a report card

The BJP specifically targeted youth, women and tribal people as the party published its manifesto for the Tripura Assembly election on Thursday. BJP president J.P. Nadda unveiled the *Sankalp Patra*, a list of promises which the party will fulfil in the next five years if voted to power in the February 16 polls.

Two-wheelers for girls who go to college, two free LPG cylinders for poor families under a Union government scheme, a new tribal university, subsidised meals at ₹5 three times a day, ₹5,000 monthly stipend for the tribal chiefs (*Samaj Pati*), smartphone for the youth, the introduction of tribal dialect Kok-Borok in CBSE and ICSE curriculums and an Eklavya school in every block in the tribal autonomous district council are some of the features of the manifesto.

Speaking at the *Sankalp Patra* releasing event. which was attended by Chief Minister Manik Saha, senior leaders of the State and a couple of Central leaders, Mr.. Nadda claimed that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is the only party which goes to people with a report card.

"No other party ever did so in the past 70 years", he said.

SC Collegium recommends five new Chief Justices for High Courts

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Collegium on Thursday recommended five new Chief Justices for the High Courts of Calcutta, Allahabad, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Manipur to replace incumbents who have either been elevated as top court judges or retired.

The collegium of Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and K.M. Joseph, at a meeting held during the course of the day, finalised the recommendations based on "seniority, experience, regional representation and inclusivity".

The collegium proposed Justice T.S. Sivagnanam as the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court upon the retirement of the incumbent, Justice Prakash Shrivastava, on March 30. Justice Sivagnanam is currently the senior-most puisne judge in the Calcutta High Court. His parent High Court is Madras.

T.S. Sivagnanam

The collegium reasoned that the Madras High Court is "one of the largest High Courts, but has only one Chief Justice from among judges whose parent High Court is the Madras High Court, namely Justice S. Manikumar", who is the Kerala Chief Justice.

The collegium, in a separate resolution, recommended Justice Pritinker Diwaker as the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court. The recommendation has come in anticipation of the elevation of the incumbent, Justice Rajesh Bindal, to the SC. The collegium had approved his name for SC appointment on January 31.

Seeking priority

Justice Diwaker is the senior-most puisne judge at Allahabad. He has been serving there since his transfer in October 2018.

The collegium also provided for the vacancy that may arise with the proposed elevation of current Gujarat Chief Justice Aravind Kumar to the Supreme Court. Justice Kumar was recommended along with Justice Bindal.

In Justice Kumar's place, the judicial body has now recommended Justice Sonia G. Gokani, the senior-most puisne judge at Gujarat, to take over as Chief Justice. The collegium has sought "priority" in her appointment as she is retiring on February 25. However, Justice Kumar's appointment to the top court has to be cleared first.

The collegium further recommended Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur as Manipur Chief Justice. The office has fallen vacant after Justice P.V. Sanjay Kumar was made a Supreme Court judge. It recommended Allahabad High Court judge, Justice Ramesh Sinha, to be appointed Chhattisgarh Chief Justice after the retirement of Justice Arup Kumar Goswami on March 10.

India will never abandon the people of Afghanistan, says NSA Doval at Moscow meet

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India reiterated its call for an "inclusive and representative" government in Afghanistan on Wednesday, with National Security Adviser Ajit Doval declaring that the people of Afghanistan were among India's "foremost priorities".

He was speaking at the '5th Regional Dialogue on Afghanistan' being held in Moscow. Addressing the delegates, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that Moscow was in contact with the Taliban rulers in Kabul, adding that large economic projects are under way in Afghanistan that could "stabilise the situation in the economy".

In his remarks, Mr. Doval highlighted India's "historical and special relationship" with Afghanistan and said that the "well-being and humanitarian needs of the people of Afghanistan" would "continue to guide" India's policy towards Kabul.

Ajit Doval

He highlighted the heightened threat of terrorism because of the presence of terror groups such as Daesh, Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed in the Af-Pak region and sought security cooperation between the member states in the dialogue.

He emphasised that Afghan territory should not be used for terrorism and that the natural resources of Afghanistan should be utilised "first for the welfare of Afghanistan".

India has not recognised the Taliban administration in Kabul. However, a technical team stationed at the Indian embassy in the Afghan capital has been overseeing the humanitarian assistance that India has been providing over the past year. Mr. Doval's presentation stated that "an inclusive and representative dispensation is in the larger interest of Afghan society".

His remarks came days after India's Union Budget presentation, which allocated ₹200 crore for the development and humanitarian needs of the Afghan people.

The meeting was also attended by Mr. Doval's counterparts from Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, China, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The third round of the dialogue had been held in Delhi under the chairmanship of Mr. Doval in November 2021.

SC to hear pleas on Hindenburg report today

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court will on Friday hear petitions seeking a probe into U.S.-based firm Hindenburg Research's report that led to the value of Adani Group shares taking a massive plunge in the stock market.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said on Thursday that the case would be taken up by the court on Friday, while tagging a petition filed by advocate Vishal Tiwari seeking the formation of a committee monitored by a retired judge of the top court to investigate the matter.

A public interest litigation petition filed by advocate Manoharlal Sharma would also come up for hearing in the top court. Mr. Sharma has accused the firm of deliberately releasing the report against the Adani group just before its ₹20,000 crore follow-on public offer.

'Women can pray in segregated spaces'

Ziya Us Salam
NEW DELHI

In a landmark decision, the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) has agreed to permit Muslim women to offer prayers in mosques.

"No prohibition in Islam on women offering *namaz* in segregated spaces in mosques," the Board has submitted to the Supreme Court, through an affidavit in response to a petition filed by Pune activist-advocate Farha Anwar Hussain Shaikh. Ms. Shaikh had petitioned the court to declare any prohibition on women's entry into mosques as illegal and a violation of the gender justice laws.

The Board added, "However, free intermixing of genders in the common space is not in conformity with the position prescribed in Islam."

While the Board has consented to women's entry into mosques, implementation may not be so easy. Most clerics remain opposed to the idea and most mosques do not have even elementary provisions for women.

APPEAL

Master Vanjith.K, Son of Kittu Samy 10 years admitted in Christian Medical College, is suffering from Shwachman Bodian Diamond Syndrome. This is a type of rare congenital disorder which is life threatening. The best option for him would be to undergo allogeneic peripheral blood stem cell transplant (PBSCT). The estimated cost of allogeneic stem cell transplant at this hospital is approximately **Rs. 15,00,000**/-.

Please send donation however small and save the boy. Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Vanjith.K, **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI Id: **savepoorlives@oksbi**. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

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Union govt. not planning a Bill on appointment of judges, Rijiju tells RS

He says appointments to higher judiciary is a collaborative process, differences between executive and judiciary are mutually reconciled to ensure that only an appropriate person is selected

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The appointment of judges to the higher judiciary is a collaborative process, and if differences crop up between the executive and the judiciary, they are mutually reconciled to ensure that only an appropriate person is appointed, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju told the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju speaking in the Rajya Sabha during the Budget Session of Parliament on Thursday. PTI

Mr. Rijiju, in a written answer, replied in the negative when asked if government was planning to bring a Bill on appointment of judges to the High Courts and the Supreme Court.

He was responding to a question by Jawhar Sircar of the Trinamool Congress on "sharp differences" emerging between the government and the Supreme Court with regard procedure and power to appoint judges.

In a separate reply to a different question, asked by the Leader of the Opposition and Congress president, Mallikarjun Kharge, about the government sending back names of judges that were reiterated by the Supreme Court Collegium, the Law Minister said that there were 10 such cases.

"Out of these 10 proposals, the collegium has reiterated its recommendation for appointment in respect of three proposals. On the remaining seven reiterated proposals, the collegium has sought additional inputs from the High Court Collegium," he said.

Answering another question posed by BJP MP Sushil Modi on the memorandum of procedure to appoint judges, the Law Minister said that the government had written to the Chief Justice of India about setting up a search-cum-evaluation committee that would have representatives from the Union and the State governments.

Vacancies in courts

Discussing the need to fill vacancies, the Law Minister said that as on February 6, the Supreme Court was functioning with 32 judges as against a sanctioned strength of 34.

"The process to fill up the two remaining vacancies is under consideration. In the High Courts, against the sanctioned strength of 1,108 judges, 771 judges are working and 337 posts of judges are vacant," he said.

Responding to another question, Mr. Rijiju said that the Upper House had over 69,000 cases pending in the Supreme Court, while nearly 60 lakh cases are pending in the High Courts as on February 1.

Was SEBI pressured to go easy on Adani Group, asks Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

It asks if SEBI will be held accountable for the lapse and allowing destruction of huge retail savings

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the National Stock Exchange (NSE) "failed" to take action against the Adani Group, the Congress alleged on Thursday.

It asked if there was "pressure" on the market regulator to go easy on the group.

As part of the party's "HAHK (*Hum Adani ke Hain Kaun*)" series, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh posed questions to Prime Minister Narendra Modi about allegations of fraud and stock manipulation against the conglomerate.

Mr. Ramesh alleged that the "failure" of market regulators such as the SEBI to protect Indian capital markets had "tarnished" their image and put a question mark on the integrity of India's financial markets.

Strong words

Addressing the Prime Minister, Mr. Ramesh said in a statement, "You [PM] have used strong words in the past, calling on world leaders at G-20 meets 'to eliminate safe havens for economic offenders', to 'track down and unconditionally extradite money launderers' and to 'break down the web of complex international regulations and excessive banking secrecy that hide the corrupt and their deeds'. Yet these same world leaders cannot have missed the high degree of tolerance you have shown for such activities by your own cronies".

Mr. Ramesh pointed out that as far back as July 19, 2021, the Finance Ministry had "admitted" to Parliament that the Adani Group was under investigation for violating SEBI regulations.

"Yet Adani Group stock prices were allowed to spiral after that. When will SEBI be held accountable for this serious lapse and allowing the destruction of huge retail savings?" the Congress leader said.

INBRIEF

Modi to inaugurate U.P. Global Investors' Summit today

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the three-day Uttar Pradesh Global Investors' Summit (GIS), 2023 in Lucknow on Friday. The summit is aimed at showcasing the State as a major investment destination. Apart from Mr. Modi, the inaugural session will be addressed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and corporate heads like Mukesh Ambani, Anand Mahindra, K. Chandrasekaran and Kumar Mangalam Birla. The event, which is considered critical for Uttar Pradesh, in its bid to become a $1 trillion dollar economy will witness the participation of over 20 Union Ministers with countries such as Denmark and Singapore partnering in various sessions. It has set the target to attract investment proposals of ₹17.3 lakh crore.

'Maulana Azad fellowship fund paid on monthly basis'

Minority Affairs Minister Smriti Irani on Thursday said the funds for the Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) were disbursed to the beneficiaries on a monthly basis. She was replying to a question by Congress MP from Thrissur, T. N.Prathapan, regarding the frequency of disbursement of funds. Scholars from the minority community termed the response an 'utter lie' as they have been waiting for their fellowship for seven months now. Sharukh Khan, an MANF scholar from the EFLU, Hyderabad took to Twitter and said:"Respected authority....MANF candidates have not received the fellowship for the last 6 months or so. Under such circumstances, these statements made us feel more dejected." Students have demanded immediate disbursal of fellowships.

World unions question assigning L-20 Chair to BMS

The International Trade Union Confederation has questioned the Central government's decision to assign the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), the labour wing of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, the Chair of the L-20 (Labour-20). ITUC-affiliated unions in G-20 countries will hold a virtual meeting on Monday to discuss the negotiations and the situation so far. The ITUC is an umbrella organisation of trade unions from nearly 150 countries. In his letter to BMS general secretary Ravindra Himte, ITUC deputy general secretary Owen Tudor said 10 Central trade unions representing a majority of union members in India have unanimously opposed the Centre's appointment of the BMS as the Chair.

Cong. questions move to expunge portions of Kharge's speech

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday objected to Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar's decision to expunge portions of the speech of party president and Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge made on Wednesday.

The party said he did not use any unparliamentary words and the deleted expression had earlier been used by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The Trinamool Congress, the second largest Opposition party, was also critical of the decision and accused the Chair of indulging in censorship.

On Thursday, Congress members questioned Mr. Dhankhar's rationale behind removing several parts of Mr. Kharge's speech, including a word from the poem he had quoted. Six parts of the speech were expunged, Mr. Kharge said. He wrote a strongly worded letter to Mr. Dhankhar detailing his objections.

He protested against Mr. Dhankhar's repeated directions during his speech to "authenticate" his comment. Quoting Article 105 of the Constitution, Mr. Kharge said that a member is only required to authenticate any document that he lays on the table of the House.

'Censorship in House'

It would be "inversion" of the system of governance, Mr. Kharge said, if the Opposition members are expected to carry out complete investigation, gather evidence and then raise the matter on the floor of the House.

Trinamool floor leader Derek O'Brien, backing the Congress stance, said, "Clearly, there is censorship under way in Parliament. During Prime Minister's address to the House today, the camera did not once pan on the Opposition members who were protesting. And the transcripts of our speeches are being tampered with."

Budget has neglected education, agriculture and health, says DMK MP Raja

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

> You are claiming that you enjoy the patronage and confidence of 140 crore people. How can you make such a claim when over 200 MPs are not with you?
>
> **A. RAJA**
> DMK MP

DMK MP A. Raja on Thursday said the Modi government could not claim to have the "patronage and shield" of 140 crore people as the Opposition had more than 200 MPs in the House.

Of the total MPs in the Lok Sabha, more than 200 belong to the Opposition parties. "You are claiming that you enjoy the patronage and confidence of the country's 140 crore people. How can you make such a claim when over 200 MPs are not with you," he asked, during a discussion on the Union Budget for 2023-24.

While replying to the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said that he had the protective shield of the trust reposed in his government by 140 crore Indians and that it could not be breached by the "weapons of lies". The DMK MP also said that the Budget presented by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had neglected sectors such as education, health and agriculture.

Congress MP M.K. Raghavan said that the government had not allocated enough funds for the MGNREGS (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme) and demanded that the wage should be enhanced at least to ₹400 a day for each person under the scheme.

Resuming the discussion which began on Wednesday, YSR Congress Party member Margani Bharat Ram asserted that the previous Congress-led UPA government had cut Andhra Pradesh "like a birthday cake". He demanded special status for the State.

Trinamool Congress MP Saugata Roy termed the Budget "anti-farmer, anti-poor and anti-rural". He also demanded an investigation by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) into the allegations of round-tripping made against the Adani Group by the U.S.-based Hindenburg Research.

88 IIS officers are from SC, 40 are from ST category

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Information & Broadcasting Ministry on Thursday said that of the 613 Indian Information Service (IIS) officers in the cadre, 88 are from the Scheduled Caste, 40 from the Scheduled Tribe (ST), 111 from the Other Backward Class, three from the Economically Backward Class and 371 from general category.

There are currently 652 IIS Group 'A' and 'B' officers, of which 39 are on deputation to other Ministries and departments, the Ministry said.

Press bodies call for high-level probe into scribe's murder

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Press Club of India, Press Association, and the Delhi Union of Journalists on Thursday condemned the killing of journalist Shashikant Warishe in Maharashtra.

The victim had been hit and dragged by an SUV, leading to his death. They stated that the accused in the case had been exposed by the scribe through a series of reports.

The media bodies demanded a high-level probe into the incident by a sitting High Court or retired Supreme Court judge. "Only a high-level judicial probe can bring the facts to light and ensure security to journalists," they said, adding that it had seriously affected the standards of civil liberties and press freedom.

Will meet Adani Group soon to seek clarification on crisis: LIC Chairman

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

The Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) management will soon meet the top management of the crisis-ridden Adani Group and seek clarification on the crisis being faced by the diversified conglomerate, LIC Chairman M.R. Kumar said here on Thursday.

The LIC's investment into the Adani Group firms' stock has come under criticism by the Opposition parties as well as investors after U.S.-based short-seller Hindenburg Research made a litany of allegations against the Gautam Adani-led group.

They alleged that the group's companies manage and manipulate share prices, run offshore shell companies for round-tripping and are lacking in corporate governance practices.

To seek explanation

"Though our investor team has already sought clarifications from the Adanis, our top management could not contact them yet as we have been busy preparing the results. We are soon going to call them to meet us and explain. We want to understand what is happening in the market and in the group," the Chairman told persspersons at the earnings conference on Thursday.

Mr. Kumar, however, refused to give a timeline of the meeting between the LIC and Adani Group officials.

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INBRIEF

P.T. Usha chairs Rajya Sabha amid thumping by members

Nominated MP and former international athlete and coach P.T. Usha briefly chaired the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday. The members thumped on the desk when she sat on the Chair, managing the proceedings with ease. "Great power involves great responsibility as said by Franklin D. Roosevelt was felt by me when I chaired the Rajya Sabha session. I hope to create milestones as I undertake this journey with the trust and faith vested in me by my people," she tweeted.

Western U.P. is becoming 'mini Pakistan': Sangeet Som

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former MLA Sangeet Som on Thursday alleged that the western part of Uttar Pradesh was on the verge of becoming a 'mini Pakistan'. "I would ask everyone to focus on how we can stop the rapidly growing population," the former MLA said in a video that is now going viral. He said that the Samajwadi Party, the main Opposition party in the State, should curb its "appeasement" politics and stop "thinking like Jinnah".

U.S. will not sanction India for buying Russian oil: senior American officials

They say that the U.S. is 'comfortable' with India's position, given that its purchase of Russian oil is at rates below the 'price cap', while responding to calls by a Ukrainian lawmaker for secondary sanctions against India and China

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

The United States does not intend to sanction India over its continued purchase of Russian oil, senior American officials have said, calling New Delhi one of their most "consequential" partners.

Ahead of a week-long visit to India by U.S. Assistant Secretary for Energy Resources Geoffrey Pyatt, when the response to the war in Ukraine will be on the agenda, the officials said that India's purchase of Russian Urals crude oil was at rates below the "price cap" of $60 set by G-7 countries in December, and that assisted the U.S.'s twin goals of ensuring there was enough oil in the market and not giving Russia a premium price for its exports.

"Even though India is not a participant in the price cap coalition, India has effectively used its negotiating leverage, which it derives from the price cap and the fact that large portions of the global markets are no longer accessible to Russia, to drive down the price that it pays for Russian crude," Mr. Pyatt said, in response to a question from *The Hindu*, on the efficacy of Western sanctions and the oil price cap.

> I want to be clear we are not looking to sanction India, our partnership with India is one of our most consequential relationships
>
> **KAREN DONFRIED**
> U.S. Assistant Secretary

Rising oil imports

Mr. Pyatt, who was part of a briefing call with Indian journalists about his visit to India next week, said that he would travel to Mumbai, Pune and Delhi to advance the strategic energy relationship and discuss plans for energy transition to renewables. He added that while India and the U.S. "do not always share the same policy approaches" with regard to Russia and Ukraine, the two countries share a commitment to "upholding the international rules-based order that is founded on respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty".

Despite several calls to reduce oil purchases from Russia, the Indian government has repeatedly asserted that it will buy oil from "wherever" it needs to. According to the latest figures for January, India has imported around 1.27 million barrels per day (bpd) of Russian Urals oil, a 30-fold jump from last January when it was around 40,000 bpd.

Russia, which was earlier the 17th biggest oil supplier to India, has become the highest exporter for the past few months. It now accounts for about 28% of India's oil imports, up from 0.2% before the invasion of Ukraine.

No secondary sanction

When asked, the American officials rejected the calls by the senior Ukrainian lawmaker and head of its Foreign Relations Committee, Oleksandr Merezhko, for secondary sanctions against countries such as China and India that were "financing the Russian economy and the Russian military machine".

During a visit to Washington, Mr. Merezhko called the Indian stance "painful".

"I want to be clear we are not looking to sanction India, and our partnership with India is one of our most consequential relationships," Karen Donfried, U.S. Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs, said.

Last March, the U.S. had called India's stand on Russia, including its refusal to criticise Russia's actions in Ukraine, as "deeply disappointing". However, the U.S. officials briefing the media made it clear that Washington was now "comfortable with the approach that India has taken".

"All of which means that Vladimir Putin, because of his invasion of Ukraine and his weaponisation of energy, has lost what has traditionally been Russia's most valued and valuable market for its oil and gas resources.," Mr. Pyatt said.

Delhi High Court grants bail to Chitra Ramkrishna

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday granted bail to Chitra Ramkrishna in a money laundering case. The case, being investigated by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), involves alleged illegal phone tapping of National Stock Exchange (NSE) employees.

"There is no allegation that the applicant (Ms. Ramkrishna) has derived or obtained any property or proceeds of crime. Additionally, there is no allegation or evidence produced before me to suggest that the applicant has concealed, possessed, used, projected or claimed any proceeds of crime as untainted property," Justice Jasmeet Singh noted.

As a condition for bail, the court ordered Ms. Ramkrishna to join the investigation when called by the agency. Ms. Ramkrishna will also have to provide her mobile number to the Investigating Officer (IO) concerned.

7 students killed in road accident in Chhattisgarh

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

Seven schoolchildren were killed on Thursday afternoon at Kanker in Chhattisgarh after their autorickshaw collided with a truck.

The five boys and two girls were between four and eight years of age. The autorickshaw driver and another boy sustained injuries.

According to the police, the children, residents of different villages, were returning home in the autorickshaw from a nearby private school.

The accident took place around 3 p.m. on a State highway close to Korar village.

Eyewitnesses have told the police that the autorickshaw took a turn to the wrong side and collided with the truck coming from the opposite direction.

Both the survivors are being treated at a hospital in Raipur.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel took to Twitter to express grief over the accident.

'Why partial loss of vision not considered for railway fare cut?'

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

On an RTI plea, CIC asks the Railway Ministry to give a detailed, point-wise explanation

The Central Information Commission (CIC) has asked the Railway Ministry to explain why only those with 100% absence of sight are entitled to railway travel concession and not those with less but progressive and irreversible visual disability.

Passing orders on a petition filed under the Right to Information Act, 2005, the panel directed the Chief Public Information Officer (CPIO) to furnish a correct, detailed and point-wise reply since the matter is of public interest.

The Railways offers travel concession ranging between 25% and 75% to persons with disabilities categorised under four forms of disabilities and patients with 11 ailments, such as cancer, AIDS and heart and kidney problems. Among them are physically challenged, paraplegic and mentally challenged persons who cannot travel without escort, persons with total hearing and speech challenge (both together in the same person) travelling alone or with escort and persons with total absence of sight travelling alone or with escort.

Pointing out that travel concession was given only to those with 100% absence of sight, the petitioner wondered whether the same yardstick was applied to other modality of disabilities. If not, he wanted to know the reasons for the discrimination. Even if person is certified to be have less than 100% loss of vision and if its nature is permanent, progressive and cannot be rectified, then do such persons get concessions, he asked and sought reasons why if they do not.

The CIC directed the CPIO to furnish copies of the relevant documents in accordance with the spirit of transparency.

NDRF team rescues six-year-old girl in Turkey

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel on Thursday rescued a six-year-old girl in the earthquake-ravaged Turkey's Gaziantep.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah commended the NDRF for the rescue operation, tweeting: "Under the guidance of PM @narendramodi, we are committed to making @NDRFHQ the world's leading disaster response force. #OperationDost".

As part of its disaster relief efforts, India has dispatched Indian Air Force C-17 Globemaster transport aircraft with relief material, a 30-bed field hospital, and rescue and a 99-member specialist medical personnel to Turkey. Medical supplies have been dispatched on an IAF C-130 aircraft to Damascus.

The Home Ministry had earlier said that two teams of 101 NDRF personnel had been sent, with a contingent led by Commandant Gurminder Singh, and doctors and paramedics.

Bullet train project tunnel to bypass mangroves will raise cost to ₹10,000 crore

Maitri Porecha
MUMBAI

A 7-km undersea tunnel will be constructed for the bullet train project in a bid to save about 12 hectares of mangrove forests in Maharashtra's Thane creek. This will escalate the construction cost of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Corridor project's 21-km stretch from Bandra Kurla Complex Station to Shilphata, from ₹100 crore to ₹10,000 crore.

"Building an underground tunnel has escalated the cost by 100 times. However, we are conserving nearly 12 hectares of mangroves in the creek," a senior National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd. (NHSRCL) official told *The Hindu*.

Constructing the tunnel in the Thane creek will be a massive challenge as it will involve two tunnel boring machines (TBMs) that will meet halfway under the sea to join two parts of the tunnel by a process called docking.

High expenditure: The undersea tunnel has increased the project cost from ₹100 crore to ₹10,000 crore. PAUL NORONHA

"We have to ensure that the docking is done smoothly. This is challenging because adequate care has to be taken to ensure that there is no seepage in the tunnel due to water pressure," another NHSRCL official said.

For the first time, TBMs with a cutter head of 13.1 metres in diameter will be used in the process. "Usually, urban tunnels used in urban metro systems are between 5 and 6 metres. The tunnel will be a single tube tunnel to accommodate both up and down tracks," the official added.

The total length of the corridor is 508 km, of which 156 km of construction will be in Maharashtra. It is slated to cut the shuttle time between Mumbai and Ahmedabad from over 6 hours to 2-2.5 hours.

The entire project cost is estimated to be ₹1.08 lakh crore of which ₹32,000 crore has been expended by the NHSRCL.

The project was stuck due to a failure in obtaining clearances from the erstwhile Shiv Sena government in the State, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had earlier said.

Saab open to local alliance to produce its Gripen fighter

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The Swedish defence major Saab, which is pitching both the single- and twin-seater variants of its single-engine Gripen fighter jet for the Indian Air Force (IAF) tender for 114 jets, is open to local partnerships after an earlier memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Adani Group for a potential partnership lapsed in 2019, senior company officials said on Thursday.

It was mutually agreed upon by both the parties not to renew the MoU, said Mats Palmberg, chairman and managing director, Saab India.

A decision on a new partnership will be taken as the process moves forward based on its categorisation for the Make in India effort under the procurement procedure.

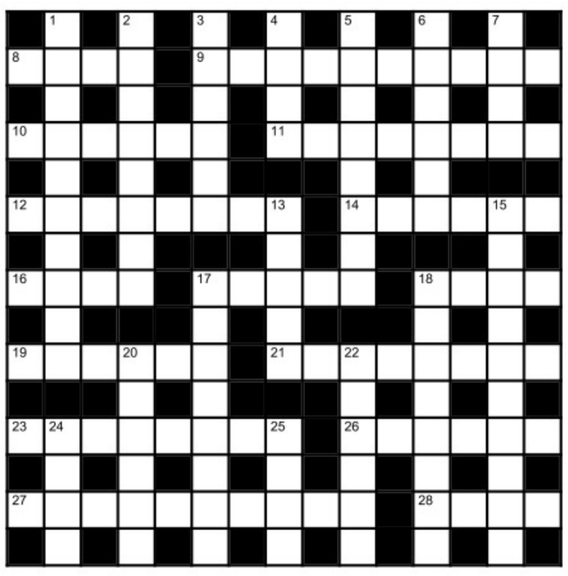
To a question from *The Hindu* on whether the development timelines of the Gripen-F would match the progress on the IAF tender for 114 jets, Mr. Palmberg said they would fit in.

TH CROSSWORD + 13785

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Charge model for trotters (4)
9 American horse is hit badly resulting in disease (10)
10 Caption: "Battle cruiser leaving Seattle and sailing" (6)
11 Squash melon with American designed eggbeater, for starters, to make drink (8)
12 Cite this wrongly: It deserves to be scratched the most (8)
14 Rawalpindi governor's colour? (6)
16/17 Perhaps what one should do if one suspects one's clock is defective? (4,5)
18 Block Charlie's record (4)
19 Evaluate animals before commencement of sterilisation (6)
21 Legislator dumps a washing machine initially into water body next to river (8)
23 Shortened spanner in these times (8)
26 Nepalese soldier found in Uigur Khanate (6)
27 Fairy let me design genealogical document (6,4)
28 North Eastern Street accommodation for birds (4)

Down

1 Perhaps, siren from the opening part of second exhaust pipe on ship (10)
2 Point sailor on vessel "Enterprise" for example (8)
3 Old beech swapped for African tree (6)
4 State learner's aim (4)
5 Fraud on party leader is at first harmless and mischievous (8)
6 On retirement, Dennis transgressed moral norms (6)
7/15 Choose sage for pursuit of something unattainable (4,5,5)
13 Aggregate sum mentioned in grotto tale (5)
15 See 7
17 Wife arranges guises around beginning of year for smart alecs (4,4)
18 Burning cross in London around year-end (8)
20 Prophet and team taking right potion (6)
22 Bet about new German composer (6)
24 Racket around start of evening in policeman's route (4)
25 Date Yankee left thread for repair (4)

SUDOKU

5			2					
	9			3			5	
				1	9	2	8	4
		4	3					
8			1		2			9
					4	5		
2	6	7	9	4				
	1			2			6	
					3			2

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

No.SS5705 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	9	7	4	8	5	1	6	3
5	1	8	6	3	9	2	7	4
4	6	3	1	2	7	5	8	9
1	3	6	5	9	8	7	4	2
7	4	5	2	6	3	8	9	1
8	2	9	7	1	4	6	3	5
3	5	1	9	7	6	4	2	8
6	8	4	3	5	2	9	1	7
9	7	2	8	4	1	3	5	6

FAITH

The lament of asuras

Nammazhvar's four Tamil works are considered the four Vedas, and Thirumangai Azhvar's six works are the equivalent of the six angas of the Vedas. While the Azhvars have imagined themselves to be the Lord's mother, or His sweetheart, Thirumangai Azhvar did something no other Azhvar did. He put himself in the place of the demons of Ravana's army and expressed the fear they would have experienced, said Akkarakkani Srinidhi, in a discourse.

Why is this significant? While those who are close to a person are naturally delighted at his achievements, to hear of his success from those defeated is sweeter still. Thirumangai Azhvar looks at Rama's success from the perspective of the asuras. Ravana has been crushed in battle, and the demons know that their lives are also going to be lost. They lament their plight, and while doing so, they use the words – "*aadu azhaippaar illai*." In Tamil "*aadu*" means goat. Vaishnavite Acharya Nanjeeyar interpreted these words to mean that there was no one to even bleat like a goat in the asura army. His disciple Nampillai wondered if an alternative interpretation was not possible. Nampillai's idea was that since "*aadu*" also meant success, this could be an interpretation in this context. No one on the asura side could claim victory, and this was what the asuras were saying. Usually, a defeated person tries to put up a brave front, and says, "I might have lost today. But tomorrow I will win." But there is no one who has the confidence to make such a claim on behalf of the asuras. Nanjeeyar felt that his disciple's interpretation was more apt and accordingly gave it his approval. The incident shows the greatness of Nanjeeyar.

ISLAMABAD

Hundreds of Afghans rush to Kabul airport chasing false rumour

AFP

Hundreds of Afghans, including women and children, dashed toward the Kabul airport after a rumour spread that flights were leaving for Turkey to help rescue earthquake victims. Videos and photos posted on social media showed dozens of desperate people running on foot in the darkness and cold towards the airport. AP

ISLAMABAD

Cash-strapped Pak. signs deal with IMF over stalled bailout package

AFP

Cash-strapped Pakistan and the IMF on Thursday signed a staff-level agreement, unlocking over $1 billion loan tranche under Extended Fund Facility for the country's ailing economy. A meeting took place between PM Shehbaz Sharif and the IMF delegation, where the mission told the premier about the agreement. PTI

SEOUL

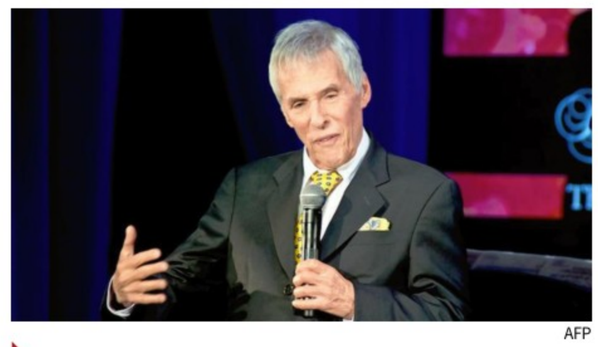
North Korea unveils 'record' number of ICBMs at parade

REUTERS

Kim Jong-Un oversaw a military parade showcasing a record number of nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), state media reported on Thursday. The parade on the 75th founding anniversary of North Korea's Army featured military bands and uniformed soldiers marching in unison, media reported. AFP

LOS ANGELES

Legendary American songwriter Burt Bacharach dead at 94



AFP

Legendary American songwriter Burt Bacharach, whose prolific output provided a chart-topping playlist for the 1960s and 70s with hits like "I Say a Little Prayer," has died in Los Angeles. He was 94. He worked with Dionne Warwick, Aretha Franklin, Dusty Springfield, Tom Jones, Elvis Costello and the White Stripes. AFP

U.S. says Chinese military behind vast aerial surveillance programme

Washington says a fleet of Chinese balloons is used for spying, outfitted with high-tech equipment and capable of collecting communications signals and other sensitive information; they have targeted more than 40 countries on five continents

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

China's military is likely behind a huge aerial spy programme that has targeted more than 40 countries on five continents with high-altitude surveillance balloons similar to one the U.S. shot down over the Atlantic coast last weekend, the Biden administration said on Thursday.

The fleet of balloons is used specifically for spying, outfitted with high-tech equipment and capable of collecting communications signals and other sensitive information from targets across the globe, the U.S. government said.

Tense situation: The U.S. Navy shows the debris of a Chinese balloon that was recovered off the coast of South Carolina. AFP

The statement from a senior State Department official offered the most detail to date linking China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) to the balloon that traversed the U.S. The public details are meant to refute China's persistent denials that the balloon was used for spying.

The U.S. official said imagery of the balloon collected by American U-2 spy planes as it crossed the country showed that it was "capable of conducting signals intelligence collection" with multiple antennas and other equipment designed to upload sensitive information and solar panels to power them.

Scope of spying

The official said an analysis of the balloon debris was "inconsistent" with China's explanation that it was a weather balloon that went off course. The U.S. is reaching out to countries that have also been targeted, the official said, to discuss the scope of the Chinese surveillance programme. The official provided details to reporters by email due to the sensitive nature of the matter, which had already forced the cancellation of a planned visit to China earlier this week by Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

The official said the U.S. has confidence that the manufacturer of the balloon shot down on Saturday has "a direct relationship with China's military and is an approved vendor of the" Army. The official cited information from an official PLA procurement portal as evidence for the connection between the company and the military.

China declined U.S. call after its balloon was downed

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

China on Thursday said it had declined a proposal from the U.S. for a telephone call between their two top defence officials, with tensions continuing to simmer over the recent shooting down of a Chinese surveillance balloon.

"The U.S. persisted in using force to attack China's civilian unmanned airship, which seriously violated international practices and set a very bad precedent. In view of the U.S. side's irresponsible and seriously wrong practice, which had failed to create a proper atmosphere for dialogue and exchange between the two militaries, China didn't accept the U.S. proposal for a phone call between the two defence chiefs," PLA Senior Colonel Tan Kefei, spokesperson for China's Defence Ministry, said.

Mao Ning

The U.S. had sought a call between Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin and Defence Minister Wei Fenghe, in the wake of heightened tensions after the shooting down of the Chinese balloon. Secretary of State Antony Blinken had also called off a visit to China set to begin February 6, over the incident.

China on Thursday continued its criticisms of the U.S., and also hit out at President Joe Biden for his remarks this week, during an interview, saying Chinese President Xi Jinping was facing "enormous problems" at home. "This type of rhetoric from the U.S. is extremely irresponsible and runs counter to basic diplomatic etiquette," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said. On the balloon incident, Ms. Mao said "the Chinese side has made clear in its communication with the U.S. side time and again" that the balloon was "civilian" and had drifted off course, and was not, as the U.S. has said, a "spy balloon".

"Yet the U.S. overreacted by using force," she said. "China firmly opposes and deplores this... That narrative is probably part of the information and public opinion warfare the U.S. has waged on China."

Toll nears 20,000, three days after quake in Turkey, Syria

Associated Press
ANTAKYA

Rescuers pulled more survivors from beneath collapsed buildings on Thursday, but hopes were starting to fade of finding many more people alive over three days after a catastrophic earthquake and series of aftershocks hit Turkey and Syria, killing over 19,800. Rescuers continued to pull people alive, with the window closing to find survivors.

Ahmet Tokgoz, a survivor, called for the government to evacuate people from the devastated region."Especially in this cold, it is not possible to live," he said. "People are warming up around campfires, but campfires can only warm you up so much. ... If people haven't died from being stuck under the rubble, they'll die from the cold."

Meanwhile, the first UN aid trucks to enter rebel-held northwest Syria from Turkey since the quake arrived on Thursday.

Mass burial: An earthmover digging graves for the earthquake victims in Kahramanmaras, Turkey on Thursday. REUTERS

Winter weather and damage to roads and airports from the quake have hampered the response throughout a region already contending with the repercussions of more than a decade of civil war in Syria. That conflict displaced millions of people within Syria and left many reliant on humanitarian aid, while also sending millions more over the border into Turkey to seek refuge.

Emergency crews on both sides of the border worked through the night to find survivors. Experts said survival window for those trapped under the rubble or otherwise unable to obtain basic necessities was closing rapidly.

In the Turkish town of Elbistan, rescuers formed human chains as they dug through collapsed buildings, urging quiet in the hopes of hearing stifled pleas for help.

President Recep Tayip Erdogan said the government would distribute 10,000 Turkish lira ($532) to affected families.

'Those behind gas pipeline blasts must be punished'

Reuters
MOSCOW

The Kremlin said on Thursday the world should know the truth about who sabotaged the Nord Stream gas pipelines and those responsible should be punished.

In a blog post, Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative journalist Seymour Hersh cited an unidentified source as saying that the U.S. navy divers had destroyed the pipelines with explosives on the orders of President Joe Biden.

The White House dismissed them as "utterly false and complete fiction". Norway's Foreign Ministry said the allegations were "nonsense".

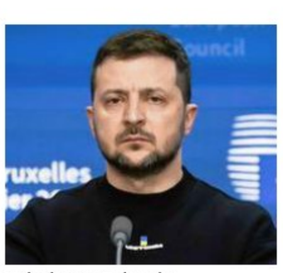
The Kremlin said Mr. Hersh's blog post deserved more attention and that he was surprised it had not been covered more fully by Western media.

We are defending you, Zelensky tells EU

Agence France-Presse
BRUSSELS

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky received a hero's welcome to Brussels on Thursday as he lobbied star-struck EU leaders for help to repel a renewed Russian offensive.

After Wednesday's visits to London and Paris to lobby Britain, France and Germany for modern fighter jets and long-range missiles, the former actor-turned-war leader came to Brussels to address EU leaders and MEPs.



Volodymyr Zelensky

The European Parliament treated Mr. Zelensky to cheers and a standing ovation as he arrived to press Ukraine's case – as the country that sees itself as fighting to defend Europe's eastern borders – for a rapid welcome into the EU fold. "We are defending against the most anti-European force of the modern world – we are defending ourselves, we Ukrainians on the battlefield, along with you," Mr. Zelensky told MEPs.

Parliamentary Speaker Roberta Metsola, reflecting the warm response of other senior EU officials, declared: "Ukraine is Europe and your nation's future is in the European Union.

"States must consider, quickly, as a next step, providing long-range systems and the jets you need to protect the liberty too many have taken for granted," she said. After the parliamentary address, Mr. Zelensky was to join the 27 leaders of the EU member states as the special guest.

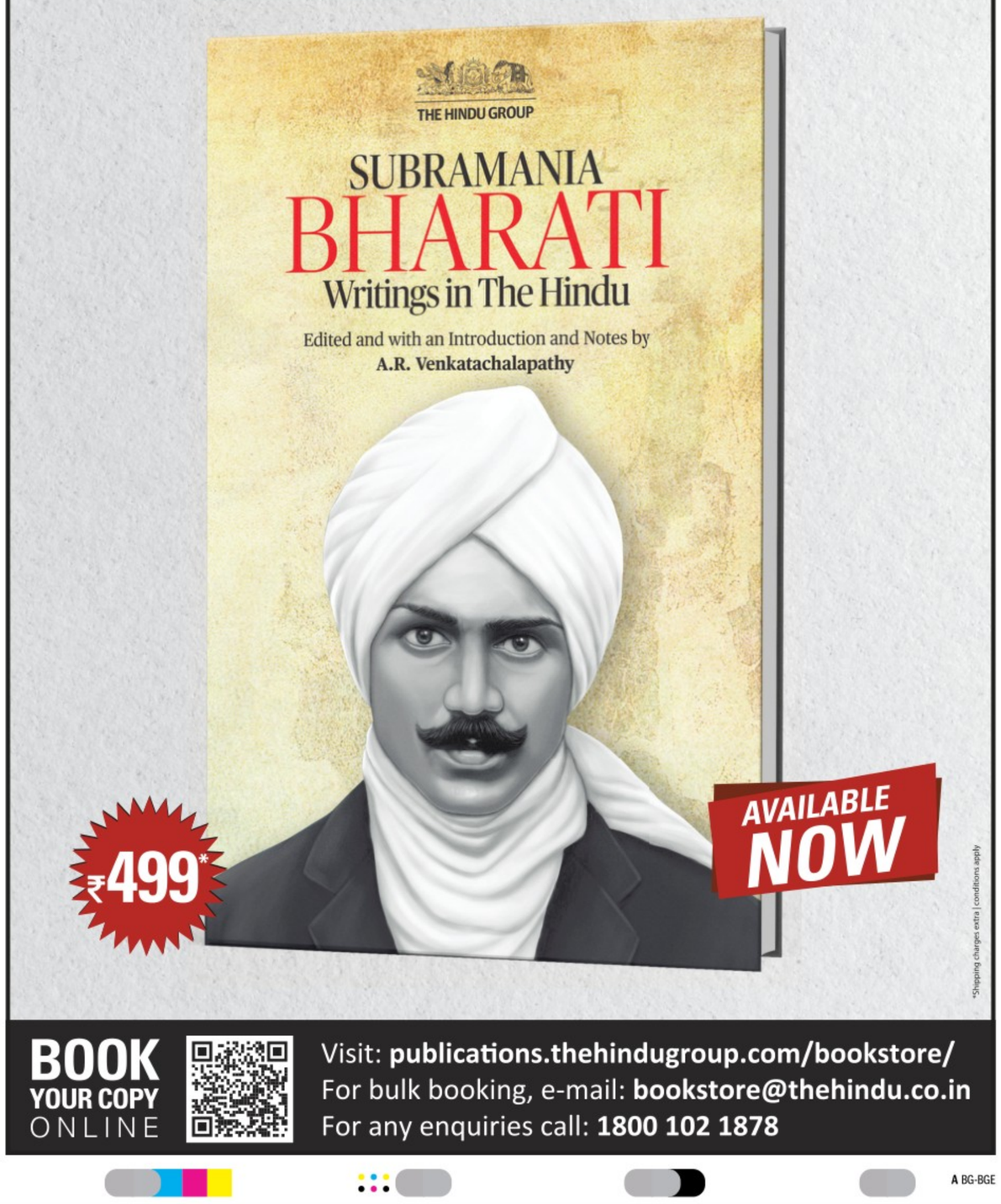
Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas said: "It's very important that we speed up military aid to Ukraine. I think all of us looked in the warehouses at what we have."

But the Kremlin reacted with its usual grim warning. "We see this as a growing engagement of Germany, the U.K., France in the conflict between Russia and Ukraine," spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

THE HINDU GROUP

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

Subramania Bharati was more than the foremost poet of Tamil Nadu. He was also a sharp commentator on the social and political issues of his time. This book brings together all of his writings in *The Hindu* during his exile in Pondicherry.



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A BG-BGE

INBRIEF

IKEA cuts product cost by up to 39% boosting affordability

IKEA has reduced the prices of its products by 16% to 39% to make home furnishing more affordable for customers in India, said the Swedish firm. The initiative was aimed at further re-emphasising 'affordability agenda' for India in the backdrop of recent unprecedented situations such as the pandemic, rising cost of living and increased inflation, IKEA said. The new prices would be applicable at its stores in Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mumbai and also on the IKEA app.

'Digitisation, automation to aid revenue, profit, staff retention'

Enterprises can generate up to $1.4 trillion in revenue and $282 billion in new profit through digital tools automation, diversifying talent pool, and improving skills development among employees, as per a a study by Infosys. It found modern workplaces would see greater hybrid working and digital engagement, enabling firms to build more diverse and creative teams. Some 65% of senior executives agreed incorporating remote working resulted in better staff retention.

Rane Brake Lining Q3 net rises 33% on strong sales

Rane Brake Lining Ltd. standalone net profit for the third quarter ended December rose by 33% to ₹9 crore on account of strong sales. Revenue from operations rose to ₹153 crore (₹134 crore). Cost of materials consumed stood at ₹87 crore (₹68 crore), the company said. "Sustained higher material cost remains a challenge," said L. Ganesh, Rane Group chairman. "Management is executing various operational improvement initiatives to mitigate the impact," he added.

Adani stocks slide after MSCI says some firms to lose 'free float' status

MSCI says characteristics of certain investors have 'sufficient uncertainty' that they should no longer be designated as free float; Norwegian sovereign fund sheds all exposure to Adani Group, totally worth approximately $200 mn across 3 firms

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

Shares of Adani Group firms except those of its edible oil and FMCG venture fell on Thursday after index provider MSCI said some Adani securities would lose their free float designation on investor concerns.

The decline in share prices – with flagship Adani Enterprises slumping 10.7% to ₹1,927.30 on the BSE – were likely triggered by the MSCI statement.

"MSCI has determined that the characteristics of certain investors have sufficient uncertainty that they should no longer be designated as free float pursuant to our methodology," MSCI said early on Thursday. "This determination has triggered a free float review of the Adani Group securities," it added

Downward bound

Norwegian wealth fund had about $200 mn exposure to 3 Adani Group firms at the end of 2022. It has shed all holdings

- On Thursday, nine firms in the group saw share prices fall between about 3% and 11%
- Adani Enterprises declined the most at 10.7%
- Only Adani Wilmar ended in the green, climbing 5%

In the wake of the MSCI statement, stocks of nine of the 10 listed firms of the Gujarat-based conglomerate came under pressure and declined between 3% and 11%, with only Adani Wilmar ending in the green after gaining 5%.

Following the MSCI statement, Nathan Anderson, founder of short seller Hindenburg Research, which had released a report last month alleging governance irregularities in the Adani Group, tweeted: "We view this as validation of our findings."

As per market sources, eight of 10 Adani Group stocks are part of the MSCI index, with close to $2 billion of passive investments in them. Any adverse decision by the index provider would likely put more pressure on the stocks in the coming days.

Separately, Reuters reported that Norway's sovereign wealth fund had said on Thursday that it had sold its stakes in Adani Total Gas, Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone and Adani Green Energy, exiting all its holdings in the group. The total stake was worth about $200 million.

Revenue Secretary rules out GST rate structure rationalisation for now

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

The long-awaited rationalisation of the multiple rate structure of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime is off the table for now and unlikely to materialise in the near future, Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra indicated.

While a Group of Ministers (GoM) of the GST Council is tasked with proposing a new rate structure, the focus, for now, will be on rationalising anomalous rates and inverted duty structures of specific products and services.

Sanjay Malhotra

"On GST, our major work is done. There is no move as of now to further reduce the number of tax rates and merge some. There is no such move. A little bit of tinkering, removal of a particular commodity or service from one slab to another... in that also, we have attained maturity," Mr. Malhotra told *The Hindu*.

"Smaller changes and rationalisation are the only ones we will be looking at... If there are any anomalies, they will be fixed."

'Better targeting'

The government, he underlined, is not in favour of changing the capital gains tax regime too frequently, and only capped the capital gains provisions relating to purchase of property at ₹10 crore "for better targeting" as it was meant to be a boost for the housing sector and help smaller taxpayers, not the bigger assessees.

Raman Chopra, Joint Secretary (TPL) in the Finance Ministry, explained that investments in houses worth ₹10 crore or more are prevalent mostly in metros and less than 2% of taxpayers can afford such houses.

"We came across several instances of capital gains of over ₹200 crore being parked in residential farmhouses. ₹10 crore is a fairly reasonable limit," he said at a PHDCCI event held here on Thursday.

LIC Q3 profit surges to ₹6,334 crore from ₹235 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) said third-quarter standalone net profit surged to ₹6,334.19 crore, from ₹234.91 crore in the year-earlier period.

Net premium income grew 14.5% to ₹1.1 lakh crore, it said in a regulatory filing on Thursday.

In a press release, LIC said for the nine months ended December 31, 2022, it registered an increase of 20.7% in total premium income to ₹3,42,244 crore.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	60,806	0.23
US Dollar	82.55	-0.01
Gold	57,410	-0.09
Brent oil	83.42	-0.52

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	1925.70	-238.55
Adani Ports	582.30	-16.95
Apollo Hosp	4389.30	-1.95
Asian Paints	2814.60	49.00
Axis Bank	867.70	-4.05
Bajaj Auto	3845.75	-34.55
Bajaj Finserv	1400.25	31.35
Bajaj Finance	6455.00	103.35
Bharti Airtel	766.65	-8.45
BPCL	333.70	-0.50
Britannia Ind	4637.35	42.55
Cipla	1021.50	-17.60
Coal India	214.55	-0.95
Divis Lab	2823.15	24.10
Dr Reddys Lab	4487.50	-0.30
Eicher Motors	3237.15	9.15
Grasim Ind	1643.45	6.90
HCL Tech	1146.35	1.35
HDFC	2673.25	-12.55
HDFC Bank	1650.55	-3.45
HDFC Life	518.65	10.10
Hero MotoCorp	2559.20	-55.45
Hindalco	444.55	8.05
Hind Unilever	2586.70	3.90
ICICI Bank	860.80	1.70
IndusInd Bank	1163.80	18.45
Infosys	1617.00	26.50
ITC	374.25	-1.30
JSW Steel	723.75	-8.20
Kotak Bank	1770.90	5.40
L&T	2147.40	16.55
M&M	1372.20	-0.85
Maruti Suzuki	8801.20	-33.50
NestleIndia	19000.30	5.40
NTPC	166.00	0.50
ONGC	146.20	2.30
PowerGrid Corp	212.85	0.85
Reliance Ind	2356.05	4.10
SBI Life	1180.45	15.95
State Bank	550.80	1.05
Sun Pharma	1006.80	-6.20
TataConsumerProduct	721.95	-2.45
Tata Motors	436.75	-3.35
Tata Steel	111.25	-0.20
TCS	3540.85	20.75
Tech Mahindra	1016.00	4.95
Titan	2462.55	-4.20
UltraTech Cement	7179.75	-70.60
UPL	717.10	-5.55
Wipro	408.30	1.55

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 09

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.29	82.61
Euro	88.37	88.74
British Pound	99.53	99.92
Japanese Yen (100)	62.90	63.15
Chinese Yuan	12.13	12.18
Swiss Franc	89.53	89.90
Singapore Dollar	62.16	62.41
Canadian Dollar	61.52	61.76
Malaysian Ringitt	19.15	19.22
Australian Dollar	57.40	57.62

Source:Indian Bank

Chola Financial Q3 net jumps 33% to ₹720 crore

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Cholamandalam Financial Holdings Ltd. reported consolidated net profit for the quarter ended December rose 33% to ₹720 crore.

Revenue from operations increased to ₹3,360 crore from ₹2,591 crore, the firm said in a filing.

Cholamandalam Investment & Finance Co. Ltd. disbursed ₹17,559 crore against ₹10,430 crore while its net profit rose 31% to ₹684 crore.

IOB Q3 net profit rises 22% to ₹555 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Indian Overseas Bank's (IOB) standalone net profit for the quarter ended December rose 22% to ₹555 crore due to increase in net interest income and improvement in asset quality.

"For FY23, we had set a target to recover ₹4,500 crore. In the nine-month period, we have recovered ₹3,200 crore," said MD and CEO Ajay Kumar Srivastava.

The total recovery during the third quarter was ₹460 crore against ₹412 crore, he said.

Net interest income rose to ₹5,056 crore from ₹4,198 crore, while non-interest income contracted to ₹950 crore from ₹1,119 crore due to muted income from treasury operations.

Net interest margin improved to 3.27% from 2.4%.

To a question, the MD said IOB had an exposure of ₹787 crore to Adani Group firms.

"It is a standard account. There are no defaults with regular repayments. It amounts to 0.4% of our total advances," Mr. Srivastava added.

Natco Q3 net slides 23% as formulations, API lag

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Natco Pharma reported consolidated net profit declined 22.5%, year-on-year, to ₹62.3 crore for the December quarter.

The net profit fell on the back of lower revenue in the key API and export of formulations, while domestic formulations sales was flat. Total revenue was ₹513.3 crore as against ₹590.7 crore. Natco declared third interim dividend of ₹1.25 a share.

Hindalco Q3 net dives 63% on elevated costs; revenue rises 6%

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Hindalco Industries Ltd. reported consolidated net profit for the third quarter contracted 63% year-on-year to ₹1,362 crore, primarily on elevated input costs, unfavourable macroeconomic conditions and inflationary impact.

Consolidated revenue rose 6% to ₹53,151 crore, driven by higher volumes and steady operational performance across India operations, the company said in a filing.

Satish Pai

Copper and aluminium downstream business reported YoY growth in EBITDA of 40% and 24%, respectively, driven by better pricing and recovery in domestic demand.

"We are seeing core industries worldwide being buffeted by macro-economic and inflationary cost pressures, yet we delivered strong operational performance with higher volumes across India business," MD Satish Pai said.

"Novelis witnessed unprecedented inflationary pressures, unfavourable foreign exchange rates and lower shipments; this was partially offset by higher pricing and a favourable product mix," he added.

"Despite the hits due to external factors, we believe the long-term story remains positive backed by strong balance sheet and a resilient business model."

MRF Q3 net profit rises 16% on higher sales volume

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

MRF Ltd.'s standalone net profit for the third quarter ended December rose 16% to ₹169 crore, on higher sales volume.

Revenue from operations climbed to ₹5,535 crore – including industrial incentive of ₹80 crore received from the Telangana government – from ₹4,830 crore. The board declared an interim dividend of ₹3 per share to be paid by March 6.

Sport

Formula E set for grand Indian debut with Hyderabad E-Prix

MOTORSPORTS

S. Dipak Ragav
HYDERABAD

India will be back on the world motorsports map after a decade when round four of the FIA Formula E World Championship 2023 gets underway here on Friday for the inaugural Hyderabad E-Prix.

The 2.835km street circuit, constructed around the shores of the Hussain Sagar lake by the NTR Gardens, will play host to India's first elite electric motor racing event.

The country's last FIA world championship event was the 2013 Formula One Indian Grand Prix held at the Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida.

Ready for the challenge: Di Grassi, Daruvala and Rowland at the unveiling of Mahindra Racing Gen3 car. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

On Friday, the cars will run for the first time in a 50-minute free practice session. The main action is on Saturday, with the second free practice session early in the morning, followed by qualifying and the 32-lap race in the evening.

The all-electric-powered single-seater championship was started in 2014-15 and is in its ninth year. The championship has had an Indian connection since its inception, with India's Mahindra Racing competing in every season.

In the first year (2014-15), India's second Formula One driver, Karun Chandhok, was part of Mahindra Racing and is the only Indian to have competed in this category.

Mahindra's challenge this year is spearheaded by former Formula E champion Luca Di Grassi and Oliver Rowland, with India's Jehan Daruvala as the reserve driver.

Di Grassi had a dream debut with the Indian team this season, finishing third at the Mexico City season-opener, where he also took the pole position.

Speaking ahead of the race, Di Grassi said, "It is important for us to have a good race in India – not only for the fans but for the championship as well. It's a new track for us, as it is for everyone up and down the grid. It needs to be a good weekend for us."

Golden Oaks primed to repeat success in Sprinters Trial Stakes

BENGALURU: Golden Oaks, who maintains form, may score an encore in the Sprinters Trial Stakes (1,200m), the chief event of the races to be held here on Friday (Feb. 10). False rails (width about 7.5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 MAHI PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 1-30 p.m.: 1. Anne Boleyn (10) A. Imran 61, 2. Cash Out (1) L.A. Rozario 60.5, 3. Phoenix Surprise (2) Arshad 59.5, 4. Southern Chrome (5) Md. Aliyar 59, 5. Sweet Kiss (9) Darshan 59, 6. War Trail (–) (–) 59, 7. Ultimate Choice (4) Vinod Shinde 57, 8. Comeonson (3) Rayan 56.5, 9. Perfect Halo (6) Angad 56, 10. Jai Vikram (8) Jagadeesh 54 and 11. Star Citizen (7) Nazerul 53.5.
1. PHOENIX SURPRISE, 2. CASH OUT, 3. ANNE BOLEYN

2 BHIMA PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 2-00: 1. Starry Wind (3) A. Imran 61, 2. Augusto (1) Arshad 60, 3. Muirfield (6) S. John 59, 4. Queen Regnant (11) Darshan 59, 5. Turkoman (9) Sandesh 59, 6. Eco Friendly (10) P. Mani 58, 7. Rhapsody In Green (7) Likith Appu 58, 8. Lycurgus (2) Srinath 57.5, 9. Dr Logan (8) L.A. Rozario 57, 10. Aferpi (4) Angad 55 and 11. Mega Success (5) Jagadeesh 51.
1. TURKOMAN, 2. AUGUSTO, 3. LYCURGUS

3 KABINI PLATE (DIV. III), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 2-30: 1. Flying Brave (2) Indrajeet S 60, 2. Air Blast (1) L.A. Rozario 59.5, 3. Habanero (5) Tousif 59, 4. Masteroftheskies (10) Koshi K 59, 5. Peridot (9) Likith Appu 59, 6. Empress Bella (3) P. Mani 58.5, 7. Princess Jasmine (6) Salman K 58.5, 8. Activated (11) Srinath 58, 9. Spirit Dancer (7) Darshan 56.5, 10. Twilight Fame (4) Angad 56.5 and 11. Chiraag (8) Md. Aliyar 55.
1. AIR BLAST, 2. ACTIVATED, 3. CHIRAAG

4 CHAMBAL PLATE (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 3-00: 1. Elpenor (12) Trevor 56, 2. Magnus (7) Darshan 56, 3. Royal Mysore (3) Akshay K 56, 4. Treasure Chest (1) Srinath 56, 5. Diamond Hooves (6) Vinod Shinde 54.5, 6. Golden Peaks (8) I. Chisty 54.5, 7. Irish Rockstar (10) Sandesh 54.5, 8. Little Emergency (4) Salman K 54.5, 9. Rochelle (11) L.A. Rozario 54.5, 10. Seeking The Stars (5) S. Saqlain 54.5, 11. Serai (9) Md. Aliyar 54.5 and 12. Spirit Of The Rose (2) R. Ajinkya 54.5.
1. ELPENOR, 2. ROYAL MYSORE, 3. SEEKING THE STARS

5 KABINI PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 3-30: 1. Sociable (1) L.A. Rozario 60, 2. Archway (6) S. John 59, 3. My Solitaire (4) Nazerul 57, 4. Stunning Beauty (7) Srinath 57, 5. The Golden Dream (2) P. Mani 57, 6. Empire Of Dreams (3) R. Ajinkya 56.5, 7. Flamingo Road (9) S. Saqlain 56.5, 8. Maybach (11) Ashok K 56.5, 9. One So Wonderful (5) Vinod Shinde 56, 10. Master Of Courage (8) Salman K 55 and 11. Defining Power (10) Angad 54.
1. STUNNING BEAUTY, 2. ARCHWAY, 3. EMPIRE OF DREAMS

6 K.N. CHENNABASAPPA MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400m), rated 40 to 65, 4-00: 1. Capable (6) Arvind K 60.5, 2. Memoriter (9) Salman K 60, 3. Shubankar (7) Akshay K 58.5, 4. Kings Speech (2) L.A. Rozario 57, 5. Peluche (5) Darshan 55, 6. Schafenberg (10) Rayan 54.5, 7. The Inheritor (3) G. Vivek 54.5, 8. Czarevitch (1) Likith Appu 50.5, 9. Galloping Ahead (4) S. Saqlain 50 and 10. The Strength (8) Koshi K 50.
1. SHUBANKAR, 2. CZAREVITCH, 3. KINGS SPEECH

7 SPRINTERS TRIAL STAKES (1,200m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms), 4-30: 1. Agnostic (5) Trevor 59, 2. All Attractive (6) A. Imran 59, 3. Endeavour (–) (–) 59, 4. Golden Oaks (4) Sandesh 59, 5. Knight In Hooves (1) M. Prabhakaran 59, 6. Knotty Dancer (7) S. John 59, 7. Star Glory (3) Vinod Shinde 58 and 8. Aztec Queen (2) Akshay K 57.5.
1. GOLDEN OAKS, 2. AGNOSTIC, 3. ALL ATTRACTIVE

8 KABINI PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5-00: 1. Divine Blessings (6) Indrajeet S 61.5, 2. The Omega Man (4) Naveen K 61.5, 3. Osiris (5) Arvind K 61, 4. Star Admiral (9) Darshan 61, 5. Stars Above (2) S. John 61, 6. Super Kind (3) L.A. Rozario 61, 7. The Republic Power (7) Srinath 60, 8. Aceros (11) Salman K 59, 9. Step Of Destiny (10) S. Saqlain 59, 10. Tiger Returns (1) B. Nayak 57.5 and 11. Burning Arrow (8) Rayan 55.
1. THE REPUBLIC POWER, 2. STEP TO DESTINY, 3. STARS ABOVE

9 MAHI PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 5-30: 1. Antilope (8) R. Ajinkya 62.5, 2. Firefinch (11) Salman K 62.5, 3. Lucky Again (1) Indrajeet S 62.5, 4. The Beginning (3) Tousif 62.5, 5. Way Of Life (4) Ashok K 62.5, 6. Altair (7) G. Vivek 61, 7. Bellissimo (6) Koshi K 60.5, 8. First Royalist (5) Arshad 60.5, 9. Konichiwa (10) B. Nayak 59.5, 10. Country's Jewel (2) L.A. Rozario 58.5 and 11. Sacred Creator (9) Angad 57.
1. ALTAIR, 2. ANTILOPE, 3. SACRED CREATOR

Day's best: **GOLDEN OAKS**
Double: **ELPENOR – SHUBANKAR**
Jkt: 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9; Tr (i): 1, 2 and 3; (ii): 4, 5 and 6; (iii): 7, 8 and 9.

MILESTONE

Ashwin becomes second fastest to 450 Test wickets

R. Ashwin became the second-fastest bowler to complete 450 wickets in Tests when he castled Australia's Alex Carey in the first Test in Nagpur on Thursday, achieving the feat in his 89th match. Only Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan reached the milestone in fewer Tests (80 Tests) than the ace Indian off-spinner.

DEADLOCK

ATK MB plays out a goalless draw against Jamshedpur FC

A dominant ATK Mohun Bagan failed to utilise the chances that came its way as it played out a goalless draw against host Jamshedpur FC in an Indian Super League match on Thursday. After the drawn match, ATK MB moved up to fourth place in the standings but remained just three points clear of the sixth placed team.

OFF THE MARK

Ahmedabad Defenders posts its first win

Ahmedabad Defenders picked up its first win of the RuPay Prime Volleyball League, defeating Bengaluru Torpedoes 14-15, 15-10, 14-15, 15-10, 15-10 at the Koramangala Indoor Stadium in Bengaluru on Thursday. Torpedoes had made 17 unforced errors in its previous game and a similar trend continued on the night.

CALLING IT QUITS

Raman resigns as National table tennis head coach

S. Raman, who was appointed by the then Committee of Administrators as National table tennis head coach last July, said in Chennai on Thursday that he had put in his papers following the election of office-bearers to Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) in December last year.

Jadeja's five-for destroys Aussies; Rohit builds on the advantage

Ashwin picks up three wickets as spinners have the visiting batters in a stranglehold after Siraj and Shami strike early

AUSTRALIA IN INDIA

Amol Karhadkar
NAGPUR

You play the ball, not the bowler. You play the line and length, not the pitch.

When batters fail to follow these, the results will be disastrous as the Australians found out against India's spin twins – Ravindra Jadeja and R. Ashwin – on the opening day of the first Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy on Thursday.

The strip at the Vidarbha Cricket Association stadium was indeed a turning track, but not as demonic as the Australian batters portrayed it to be. Jadeja and Ashwin shared eight wickes between them as Cummins & Co. crumbled for 177.

Masterclass

Rohit Sharma gave the Aussies a lesson on batting in Indian conditions, his unbeaten fifty taking the hosts to 77 for one at close. India lost vice-captain K.L. Rahul who lobbed one back to off-spinner Todd Murphy – one of the three debutants on the park – and was dismissed in the dying moments of the day, forcing Ashwin to walk in as a nightwatchman.

After the Australian skipper won a vital toss, India's pace duo did the damage initially. While Usman Khawaja was trapped in front after missing Mohammed Siraj's first ball that moved slightly in the air, a peach from Mohammed Shami skidded through David Warner's defence and hit the top of off-stump.

Dance of delight: Jadeja's joy knows no bounds as he celebrates the dismissal of Smith. K.R. DEEPAK

At two for two, Marnus Labuschagne and Steve Smith had their task cut out. While the latter was tentative and even survived a half-chance at slip off Axar, the former looked at ease in his maiden Test innings in India. Labuschagne drove Shami with finesse and showed deft touch while handling the spinners.

When Labuschagne and Smith batted out the rest of the session, despite the odd ball from the spinners rearing up, Australia had a ray of hope. However, in the fourth over after the break, Jadeja forced the Aussie No. 3 to charge down the wicket and tricked him in flight. K.S. Bharat, the other debutant of the day, whipped off the bails in a flash.

Off the next delivery, Matt Renshaw played across the line and was adjudged lbw to leave Australia reeling at 84 for four.

Smith grew in confidence, playing three delightful drives off Axar that raced to the boundary. In the very next over, Jadeja breached Smith's defence as the batter played for turn and the ball held its line to crash through.

With the older ball starting to turn, Ashwin came into play despite Alex Carey and Peter Handscomb showing some fight. The off-spinner dismissed the Australian wicketkeeper, Cummins and Scott Boland while Jadeja celebrated his comeback with a five-wicket haul.

In India's reply, Rohit played some exquisite drives and flicks off Cummins. If the Indian skipper continues in the same vein, neither the bowler nor the pitch will matter.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA — 1ST INNINGS
David Warner b Shami 1 *(5b)*, Usman Khawaja lbw b Siraj 1 *(3b)*, Marnus Labuschagne st. Bharat b Jadeja 49 *(123b, 8x4)*, Steve Smith b Jadeja 37 *(107b, 7x4)*, Matt Renshaw lbw b Jadeja 0 *(1b)*, Peter Handscomb lbw b Jadeja 31 *(84b, 4x4)*, Alex Carey b Ashwin 36 *(33b, 7x4)*, Pat Cummins c Kohli b Ashwin 6 *(14b, 1x4)*, Todd Murphy lbw b Jadeja 0 *(5b)*, Nathan Lyon (not out) 0 *(3b)*, Scott Boland b Ashwin 1 *(8b)*; Extras (b-7, lb-5, nb-3): 15; Total (in 63.5 overs): 177.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-2 (Khawaja, 1.1 overs), 2-2 (Warner, 2.1), 3-84 (Labuschagne, 35.5), 4-84 (Renshaw, 35.6), 5-109 (Smith, 41.6), 6-162 (Carey, 53.1), 7-172 (Cummins, 57.3), 8-173 (Murphy, 58.5), 9-176 (Handscomb, 62.3).

INDIA BOWLING
Shami 9-4-18-1, Siraj 7-3-30-1, Jadeja 22-8-47-5, Axar 10-3-28-0, Ashwin 15.5-2-42-3.

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS
Rohit Sharma (batting) 56 *(69b, 9x4, 1x6)*, K.L. Rahul c & b Murphy 20 *(71b, 1x4)*, R. Ashwin (batting) 0 *(5b)*; Extras (nb-1): 1; Total (for one wkt. in 24 overs): 77.

FALL OF WICKET
1-76 (Rahul, 22.5).

AUSTRALIA BOWLING
Cummins 4-1-27-0, Boland 3-1-4-0, Lyon 10-3-33-0, Murphy 7-0-13-1.

Toss: Australia.

India chases maiden title; holder Australia aims for record-extending sixth trophy

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Press Trust of India
CAPE TOWN

Australia's hegemony is likely to continue, but a host of teams – led by India and England – will harbour hopes of breaking it when the ICC Women's T20 World Cup begins here on Friday.

Australia has lifted the trophy five times in seven editions and has hardly been challenged in the format since winning the last T20 World Cup in 2020. In the last 22 months, Australia has lost just one T20 match – to India via Super Over.

The favourite

The defending champion will no doubt start favourite once again and will aim for a second hat-trick of titles, which will be a record-extending sixth trophy.

Skipper Meg Lanning's return after a break is a massive boost. Star wicket-keeper-batter Alyssa Healy, who is back after a calf injury, also seems to have shrugged off the rust.

Runner-up in the last edition, India will be keen to go one step further and claim the title that has been elusive thus far.

However, a lot will depend on the batting unit, especially the top-order comprising Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur. The Women in Blue enjoyed a stellar run at the 2020 edition before the final ended in disappointment.

Shafali, pumped up after the recent U-19 World Cup win, will be keen to carry the momentum. India has found a much-needed finisher in U-19 World Cup-winning Richa Ghosh and that will give the top-order the freedom to go all guns blazing from the start.

The ever-reliable Deepti Sharma has been a match-winner for India on several occasions, and with spinners sparkling in the warm-up matches, she is likely to once again be a key player.

England, which has been a consistent force in the format for years, will be a strong contender. Led by Heather Knight, England will be eager to get its hands on the title for the first time since inaugural edition in 2009.

The opening encounter will be between South Africa and Sri Lanka on Friday.

Group A:
Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh.

Group B: India, England, Pakistan, the West Indies, Ireland.

All eyes on the Rainbow Nation

As the eighth chapter of the women's T20 World Cup is all set to open in South Africa, it's time to flip the pages of history

- Australia, England and West Indies are the only teams to lay their hands on the women's T20 World Cup
- Australia has dominated the competition, emerging champion five times in seven editions
- India, which lost the 2020 final to Australia, is also a three-time semifinalist (2009, 2010, 2018)

Year	Champion	Runner-up	Host
2009	England	New Zealand	England
2010	Australia	New Zealand	West Indies
2012	Australia	England	Sri Lanka
2014	Australia	England	Bangladesh
2016	West Indies	Australia	India
2018	Australia	England	West Indies
2020	Australia	India	Australia

- The Australians made it to all finals except one (2009) when they lost to England in the semifinals

India's record in the T20 World Cup

	M	Won	Lost
Overall	31	17	14
vs. Australia	5	2	3
vs. Bangladesh	3	3	0
vs. England	5	0	5
vs. Ireland	1	1	0
vs. New Zealand	4	2	2
vs. Pakistan	6	4	2
vs. Sri Lanka	5	4	1
vs. West Indies	2	1	1

India's Group Phase schedule

Feb. 12	vs. Pakistan	Cape Town
Feb. 15	vs. WI	Cape Town
Feb. 18	vs. England	Gqeberha
Feb. 20	vs. Ireland	Gqeberha

ALL MATCHES START AT 6.30 P.M. IST

KNOCKOUT PHASE
Semifinals: Feb. 23 and 24
Final: Feb. 26

At the peak

OVERALL	BATTING	INDIA
Suzie Bates (929, 32 inns), NZ	Most runs	Mithali Raj (726, 23 inns)
Meg Lanning 126 (Aus vs. Ireland, Sylhet, 2014)	Highest	Harmanpreet 103 (vs. NZ, Providence, 2018)
Stafanie Taylor (6), WI; Bates (6)	Most fifties	Mithali (5)

- Deandra Dottin (WI), Lanning (Aus), Harmanpreet (Ind), Heather Knight (Eng) and Lizelle Lee (SA) have scored a century each in the T20 World Cup

OVERALL	BOWLING	INDIA
Anya Shrubsole (41, 27 inns), Eng	Most wickets	Poonam Yadav (28, 18 inns)
Deandra Dottin 5/5 (WI vs. Bangladesh, Providence, 2018)	Best bowling	Priyanka Roy 5/16 (vs. Pakistan, Taunton, 2009)
Diana David (2), Ind; Dottin (2)	Most four-fors	Diana David (2)

- Priyanka (Ind), Julie Hunter (Aus), Sune Luus (SA) and Dottin (WI) have scalped a five-for each

SOURCE: ESPNCRICINFO

COMPILED BY R. NARAYANAN AND G. PRASAD

Jadeja makes up for lost time, and how!

Leading the pack: When Jadeja returned, he was the cynosure of all eyes. K.R. DEEPAK

Amol Karhadkar
NAGPUR

He missed more than five months of competitive cricket following knee surgery. But Ravindra Jadeja made up for lost time by marking his return to international cricket with a five-wicket haul on the first day of the opening Test on Thursday.

"Feeling fit physically and giving your 100% in a match situation are two different things. The doubt that I wanted to clear is whether I would be able to give that 100% in a match situation," he said.

Not a rank turner

Jadeja felt it was a typical Indian wicket.

"This isn't a rank turner. Compared to other wickets, it was slow and had low bounce.

"I felt defending wasn't very difficult today for the batters. But, as the game progresses, defending will become increasingly difficult. That's the nature of Test cricket," he stated.

Debutants' families savour the memorable moment

Amol Karhadkar
NAGPUR

Suryakumar Yadav made a phone call to his family on Tuesday and informed them that the family's dream of seeing him in India's whites was to become a reality on Thursday, and he wanted them to savour the moment with him.

While his wife Devisha and mother Swapna boarded a flight to Nagpur immediately, his father Ashok, a scientist at the Bhabha Atomic Research Institute in Mumbai, landed here on Thursday morning.

On Wednesday, K.S. Bharat, whose wife Anjali has been accompanying him since last week's preparatory camp, had called up his parents Kona Srinivas Rao and Manga Devi, asking them to join him. They flew down along with Bharat's sister Manoghna and her kids.

What a feeling! Bharat celebrates with his mom after joining the club of Test cricketers.K.R. DEEPAK

"It's a very special day for all of us. We have waited for this moment for very long. Test cricket is the greatest format and it's a proud moment for everyone," Anjali told *The Hindu*.

Devisha admitted that it was a surreal feeling to watch Suryakumar become an all-format international cricketer. "To be on the ground for his debut was special. For his T20 debut, I was at the stadium but since there was a bubble, I couldn't be on the ground," she said.

"It's the fruits of labour over the years. It's come when he is 32, but now that he has an India Test cap, the wait has been worth it."

INBRIEF

Kerala women retain National volleyball crown

Kerala beat Railways to retain the women's crown, while Rajasthan stunned Services to win the men's title, in the National volleyball championships in Guwahati on Thursday.

The results: Men: Final: Rajasthan bt Services 3-0 (27-25, 25-21, 25-20); **Third place:** Tamil Nadu bt Haryana 3-1 (25-16, 23-25, 25-22, 25-22)
Women: Final: Kerala bt Railways 3-1 (25-13, 25-22, 23-25, 25-21); **Third place:** West Bengal bt Rajasthan 3-0 (25-21, 26-24, 25-17).

RoundGlass downs Gokulam, goes joint top in I-League

RoundGlass Punjab got the better of holder Gokulam Kerala 2-1 in the I-League in Kozhikode on Thursday to catch up with the leader Sreenidi Deccan on 34 points, while Gokulam stayed a distant third 10 points adrift.

The result: **At Kozhikode:** Gokulam Kerala 1 (Farshad Noor 73) lost to RoundGlass Punjab 2 (Pawan Kumar Drall 42-og, Luka Majcen 70); **At Aizawl:** Aizawl FC 2 (Ramdinthara 71, Veras 90+7) bt Rajasthan United 1 (Mambataliev 17).

Women's senior National hockey from Feb. 15

Twenty-nine teams will take part in the Hockey India senior women's National championship, to be held in Kakinada (Andhra Pradesh) from February 15. Odisha had won the title last year defeating Karnataka 2-0 in the final. The third HI senior men's inter-department National will begin on Feb. 26 in Bengaluru.

Riyadh to host Santosh Trophy semifinals, final

The semifinals and final of the Santosh Trophy football will be held from March 1 to 4 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, the national federation announced on Thursday. AIFF secretary general Shaji Prabhakaran told a press conference in Bhubaneswar that the dates have been fixed after consultation with Saudi Arabian counterparts.

Ghana footballer Atsu still missing after Turkey quake

Ghana international footballer Christian Atsu is still missing after the earthquake in Turkey, his club and agent said on Thursday, despite earlier reports he was rescued from the rubble of a collapsed building and taken to a hospital. Atsu's whereabouts were still unknown, Aydin Toksoz, the deputy head of Hatayspor soccer club, told Turkey's state-run *Anadolu Agency* news service.

Mixed fortunes for India at Asian junior team squash

Third seed India had a gilt-edged chance to put it across Hong Kong, seeded second, but went down fighting 1-2 in a girls' Group-B match of the Asian junior team squash championships in Chennai on Thursday. India will take on Singapore, seeded sixth, in the last Group match on Friday. India will have to beat Singapore to be the second team from the group to enter the semifinals. On the other hand, the Indian boys outplayed Japan 3-0 to book a place in the last four.

Important results: Boys: Group-A: Pakistan bt Hong Kong 3-0; Pakistan bt Korea 3-0. **Group-B: India bt Japan 3-0** (Shaurya Bawa bt Kosei Toki 11-4, 11-5, 11-5; Paarth Ambani bt Renshi Makino 11-2, 11-5, 11-4; Krishna Mishra bt Yujin Ikeda 15-13, 11-6, 11-7).
Girls: Group-A: Malaysia bt Japan 3-0. **B: Hong Kong bt India 2-1** (Leung Ka Huen bt Yuvna Gupta 8-11, 11-7, 9-11, 11-4, 11-8; Tse Yee Lam Toby bt R. Pooja Arthi 11-8, 13-11, 11-5; Wai Sze Wing lost to Anahat Singh 5-11, 8-11, 2-11).

LIVE TELECAST

India vs Australia: 1st Test, day 2, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.
Ranji Trophy: (semifinals), Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.
KIYG: Star Sports 3, DD Sports, Hotstar & FanCode, 10 a.m. onwards
I-League: Eurosport (SD & HD), 4.30 p.m.
PVL: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Women's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 10.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1 a.m. (Saturday)
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.15 a.m. (Saturday)
LaLiga: Jio Cinema App, 1.30 a.m. (Saturday)

Mayank's delightful double ton helps Karnataka to a position of supremacy

Skipper dominates the last two partnerships as the host goes past the 400-mark; Kaverappa's fiery spell prises out two Saurashtra batters

RANJI SEMIFINALS

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

An imperious double ton by Mayank Agarwal put Karnataka firmly in control of the Ranji Trophy semifinal against Saurashtra at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Thursday.

From an overnight 110, the skipper finished on 249 (429b, 28x4, 5x6) to take the hosts' total to 407. If he had not been the last man to be dismissed – run out by Sheldon Jackson – he would have become only the second Karnataka opener to have carried his bat in the competition after K.L. Rahul (vs. Uttar Pradesh, 2013/14).

Where on day one he largely played within himself, trusting his defence and interspersing the knock with a few delectable hits to the fence, on day two he was at his expansive best. The conditions weren't quite dissimilar from Wednesday as the ball swung and seamed. Karnataka also lost three quick wickets in the morning and was reduced to 278 for eight.

Free-flowing: Mayank was at his expansive best as he made merry on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Mayank farmed the strike in expert fashion, and yet did not climb down from the higher gear he had shifted into.

In the morning session, he faced 100 balls, but collected 75 runs. There were as many as four beautifully driven boundaries on the off-side, a glorious short-arm pull and a majestic on-drive that he executed even as he walked down the pitch.

Pace and spin were treated with equal disdain. Pacer Prerak Mankad was flat-batted for a six and then deposited over long-off while left-arm spinner Dharmendrasinh Jadeja was sent soaring over the straight boundary. This was vintage Mayank, radiating star quality, but he also oozed responsibility. Of the 129 runs the last two partnerships fetched, he accounted for 113.

Fiery display

The 31-year-old eventually fell attempting a second run that would have given him his 250. But by then, Karnataka was clearly in the ascendency. Tail-ender Vidwath Kaverappa, who had stuck around admirably with Mayank for 42 deliveries, burst back on to the field to come up with a fiery display of his primary skill.

Snell Patel and Vishvarajsinh Jadeja both shouldered arms and saw their off-stump uprooted by balls that jabbed back in. V. Koushik, from the other end, bowled seven straight maidens and could have had the seasoned Jackson if R. Samarth had not dropped a sitter at first slip. B ut at 76 for two, Saurashtra is barely out of the woods.

The scores: Karnataka — 1st innings: R. Samarth c Kushang b Vishwarajsinh 3, Mayank Agarwal run out 249, Devdutt Padikkal c Jackson b Sakariya 9, Nikin Jose c Harvik b Kushang 18, Manish Pandey c Snell b Mankad 7, Shreyas Gopal run out 15, Sharath Srinivas lbw b Sakariya 66, K. Gowtham c Mankad b Jani 2, V. Vyshak b Kushang 6, Vidwath Kaverappa b Sakariya 15, V. Koushik (not out) 1; Extras (b-5, lb-2, w-5, nb-4): 16; Total (in 133.3 overs): 407.

Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-21, 3-68, 4-79, 5-112, 6-251, 7-255, 8-278, 9-369.

Saurashtra bowling: Sakariya 29-8-73-3, Kushang 26-1-109-3, Jani 25-5-63-1, Mankad 23-3-68-1, Dharmendrasinh 20-3-52-0, Bhut 10.3-1-35-0.

Saurashtra — 1st innings: Harvik Desai (batting) 27, Snell Patel b Kaverappa 0, Vishvarajsinh Jadeja b Kaverappa 22, Sheldon Jackson (batting) 27; Total (for two wkts. in 30 overs): 76.

Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-40.

Karnataka bowling: Kaverappa 11-3-24-2, Koushik 11-7-21-0, Vyshak 7-0-30-0, Gowtham 1-0-1-0.

One of the most satisfying knocks in recent times: Mayank

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Mayank Agarwal is no stranger to playing long innings in First Class cricket. But a double century as captain, on a testing wicket against a side like Saurashtra, in a Ranji Trophy semifinal when his team was in dire straits should rank among the very best.

"One of the most satisfying knocks in recent times. I am very proud of it," said Mayank.

"I had to be focussed ball after ball. This is not the wicket where you can get into your comfort zone and say 'I am set and I can play these shots.'

> It was about putting pressure back on them, scoring at a fast rate

"Yesterday [Wednesday] the need of the hour was to grind it out, keep batting and play a lot of defensive cricket which is exactly what I did. Today [Thursday] was a different challenge after we lost a couple of wickets.

"It was about putting pressure back on them, scoring at a fast rate.

"A lot of credit should go to the way our bowlers batted. Saurashtra didn't know what to do after a point and they were getting frustrated."

Abishek, Tiwary knocks boost Bengal's total

Smoothly done: Abishek's half-century was laced with some fluent drives. FILE PHOTO: BISWARANJAN ROUT

Dhruva Prasad
INDORE

Fighting knocks from Abishek Porel (51, 102b, 8x4) and Manoj Tiwary (42, 129b, 5x4) and a disciplined seam attack put Bengal in ascendancy against Madhya Pradesh on the second day of the Ranji Trophy semifinal here on Thursday.

The host stares at a 382-run deficit after losing openers Yash Dubey and Himanshu Mantri, who looked well-set during their 27-run vigil. Akash Deep then got a full delivery to straighten and induced an outside edge from Dubey to the 'keeper before Mantri chipped a catch to mid-off.

The scores:

Bengal — 1st innings: Karan Lal b Anubhav 23, Abhimanyu Easwaran b Gaurav 27, Sudip Gharami lbw b Anubhav 112, Anustup Majumdar b Avesh 120, Manoj Tiwary c Venkatesh b Kartikeya 42, Shahbaz Ahmed c Mantri b Gaurav 14, Abishek Porel run out 51, Pradipta Pramanik c sub (Solanki) b Saransh 21, Akash Deep b Kartikeya 6, Mukesh Kumar (not out) 2, Ishan Porel lbw b Kartikeya 0; Extras (b-1, lb-19): 20; Total (in 141.3 overs): 438.

Fall of wickets: 1-51, 2-51, 3-292, 4-296, 5-323, 6-401, 7-419, 8-429, 9-437.

Madhya Pradesh bowling: Kartikeya 36.3-7-95-3, Avesh 31-3-111-1, Gaurav 20-1-77-2, Anubhav 21-8-38-2, Saransh 26-3-70-1, Shubham 5-0-18-0, Dubey 2-0-9-0.

Madhya Pradesh — 1st innings: Yash Dubey c Abishek b Akash 12, Himanshu Mantri c Anustup b Ishan 23, Saransh Jain (batting) 17, Anubhav (batting) 4; Extras: 0; Total (for two wkts. in 28 overs): 56.

Fall of wickets: 1-27, 2-43.

Bengal bowling: Shahbaz 5-1-10-0, Mukesh 7-4-10-0, Pramanik 7-1-20-0, Akash Deep 6-1-10-1, Karan 1-0-2-0, Ishan 2-1-4-1.

Arjun eliminates Gukesh; Pragg to challenge Sevian for title

AIRTHINGS MASTERS

Sports Bureau

Arjun Erigaisi overcame D. Gukesh 1.5-0.5 to stay alive in Division 1 of the Airthings Masters online rapid chess championship on Wednesday.

On a day when Magnus Carlsen reached the Grand Final by topping the winner's division at the expense of Hikaru Nakamura, Arjun ended Gukesh's resistance in 47 moves in the first game and drew the next.

Arjun now plays Wesley So in the semifinals. A win will earn Arjun a clash with Nakamura in the loser's final. Another victory will see the Indian teenager meet Carlsen in the Grand Final.

In Division 3, R. Praggnanandhaa earned a return clash with USA's Samuel Sevian in the Grand Final.

Sevian defeated Praggnanandhaa in the Armageddon game after the two regular rapid games ended as draws in the final and progressed to the Grand Final. Praggnanandhaa went on to beat Ukraine's Olexandr Bortnyk 2-1 in the loser's final and gained the right to challenge Sevian for the title.

Meanwhile, in the FIDE Women's Grand Prix in Munich, all draws in the sixth round kept the leaderboard unchanged.

K. Humpy (3.5 points) stayed in the joint second place behind Alexandra Kosteniuk (5) after drawing with Germany's Dinara Wagner.

D. Harika (3) remained in the joint-fourth spot after proving equal to China's Tan Zhongyi.

Rashford, Sancho answer taunts with goals as United gets a point

Agencies
MANCHESTER

Marcus Rashford and Jadon Sancho scored in a rousing second-half comeback as Manchester United rallied to salvage a 2-2 draw in the Premier League on Wednesday. Rashford had scored his 20 goal this season in all competitions to start United's comeback and Sancho equalised to mark his return to team.

In Serie A, Duaan Vlahovic proved he is back in form with two goals and an assist to help Juventus win 3-0 at Salernitana.

The results: Premier League: Manchester United 2 (Rashford 62, Sancho 70) drew with Leeds 2 (Gnonto 1, Varane 48-og).
Serie A: Salernitana 0 lost to Juventus 3 (Vlahovic 26-pen, 47, Kostic 45).

Yashaswini helps Karnataka best TN, make last four

TABLE TENNIS

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Yashaswini Ghorpade won both her matches to help Karnataka beat Tamil Nadu 3-1 and enter the semifinals of the youth girls' u-19 team events of the UTT 84th inter-State National (junior & youth) table tennis championships here on Thursday.

Karnataka will next take on Maharashtra, which defeated Uttar Pradesh 3-1.

In the other quarterfinals, West Bengal blanked Telangana 3-0 while Haryana edged Delhi 3-2 in a thriller.

The results (quarterfinals): Maharashtra bt Uttar Pradesh 3-1. Karnataka bt TN 3-1 (Anargaya Manjunath lost to B. Kavyashree 8-11, 9-11, 9-11; Yashaswini Ghorpade bt M. Hansini 11-7, 11-2, 11-4; Deshna Vanshika bt Sharvani Nagam 11-5, 11-8, 11-9; Yashaswini bt Kavyashree 11-4, 13-12, 11-9).
West Bengal bt TS 3-0; Haryana bt Delhi 3-2.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Triumphant: The Ramaiah Institute of Technology cricket squad that won the IISC Cup inter-college championship recently.

Harsh's ton highlights Vivekananda Union's facile win

Harsh Singh's 134 helped Vivekananda Union CC defeat Sir M. Visvesvaraya Institute Of Technology in the KSCA Group I, V division league here.

The scores: Vivekananda Union CC 287 in 48.1 overs (Harsh Singh 134, Rakesh Mehta 26, Sanjay 5/47, R. Varun 3/47) bt Sir M. Visvesvaraya Institute Of Technology 190 in 40.1 overs (Sanjay 68, G.M. Bharadwaj 44, Rohan Gowda 25, Naveen Kumar 5/26).

City Cricketers (2) 239 in 48.4 overs (Trilok Patravalli 51, K.P. Surya 47, M. Tanmay 42, Aniketh Patel 29, Nimith Kumar 4/39, T.G. Uday 3/43) bt Gary Cricketers 208 in 41.3 overs (T.P. Prapul 29, Naveen Pandit 73, S. Akhilesh 31, K.P. Surya 4/18).

Friends CC 248/9 in 50 overs (Shashank Nagaraj 62, Prahlad Kulkarni 45, Arnab Baksi 45, Syed Moinuddin Nasheed 3/36) lost to New National CC 251/7 in 35.5 overs (N. Sagar 34, Divya Bala 53, S.A. Sachin 76, D. Rakshith 27).

ACE Cricketers 198 in 46 overs (Shabbir Dohad 33, Pradyumna Panigrahy 40, Nishanth Ravikiran 32 n.o., Bhudhram Jangid 3/41) lost to Sri Jayachamarajendra CC 202/4 in 32.3 overs (Pavan Sheshagiri 76, R. Anirudh 31, Nithesh Kumar 32).

Royal CC 41 in 13.5 overs (Sreeram Sreedharan 4/31, Rajeev Bhaskar 5/9) lost to Rajajinagar Colts CA 44/1 in 5.3 overs.

Karnataka Youth CA 320 in 43.1 overs (Abhishek Katagi 117, M. Lakshminarayan 42, N. Karthik 35, Rakshith Kumar 57, R. Samarth 4/43, K.R. Pavan 3/45) bt Young Challenging CC 147 in 34.5 overs (Punith Revannam 56, Rakshith Kumar 5/32).

Crescent CC (2) 321/9 in 50 overs (S. Daivik 125, K.N. Karthik 44, Sual 36, Adithya Krishnan 3/44, Manjunath 3/74) bt Mathikere CC 285 in 46.5 overs (Kiran Kumar 85, Adithya Krishnan 30, C.G. Balaram 36, Sudhakar Yadav 74).